
T H E
CRITICAL REVIEW.

For the Month of June, 1760.

ARTICLE I.

An Historical and Critical Enquiry into the Evidence produced by the Earls of Murray and Morton, against Mary Queen of Scots. With an Examination of the Rev. Dr. Robertson's Dissertation, and Mr. Hume's History, with respect to that Evidence. 8vo^d Pr. 3s. Owen.

TO rescue from a load of infamy the memory of the beautiful, the accomplished, and, perhaps, the rather unfortunate than criminal Mary queen of Scotland, is the generous intention of this sensible writer. To unfold this obscure and intricate period of history, has, of late, employed the most masterly pens of the age. Mr. Hume, Mr. Goodall, and Dr. Robertson, have all inquired, with great critical precision, into the character of this princess; they have consulted the same documents, had before them the very same proofs and evidences, and yet, strange as it may appear, each has formed a different judgment. By the first, Mary would seem clearly convicted of being an accessory to the murder of her husband, the lord Darnley: by the second she is as clearly acquitted of any share in that horrible and unnatural action; and as to Dr. Robertson, he reasons with some degree of scepticism, inclining, however, more to the side of Mary's adversaries.

In this state of the matter our author has taken up the subject, giving us in the first place an historical account of the letters, said to have been written by Mary to the earl of Bothwell, upon the authenticity of which rests the whole dispute, from their discovery by the earl of Morton, through the several shapes and appearances they put on in England, to their final

delivery back into the hands of that nobleman. Next, he presents the reader with an abstract of Mr. Goodall's arguments, to prove the letters spurious and forged : of Mr. Hume's and Dr. Robertson's objections to these arguments ; and sums up this chapter with critical observations on the objections. In the third chapter our author enters upon a more explicit examination of the arguments advanced by the two last writers, in support of the authenticity of the letters. Then he endeavours to prove the confession of Nicholas Hubert, the supposed messenger of queen Mary to Bothwell, an impudent bare-faced forgery. The fifth chapter contains a summary of the arguments produced by both parties ; and in the last place our author, not satisfied with exculpating Mary, brings his charge against Murray, Morton, and Lethington, whom he endeavours to prove accessories, at least, to the murder of the earl of Darnley. Here we find sketched out a plan sufficiently clear, and pursued by our author with great ability, and nice critical discernment.

The letters are said to have been found in a small gilt box, forgot by Bothwell in his flight from Edinburgh, and taken by Morton upon George Dalgleish, whom Bothwell had sent back for the coffer. The letters were eight in number, and besides them were some love-sonnets, and a promise of marriage from the queen to Bothwell, all in French. Our author having made some reflections on the improbability of the queen's committing to writing such strong and palpable evidence against herself as is contained in these letters, and on Bothwell's preserving in his hands such undoubted proofs of his own and the queen's guilt, specifies it as a presumption of forgery, that Morton, who was present at Dalgleish's examination, six days after the box was seized upon him, should never confront the prisoner with the persons who apprehended him, or make the least mention of the box or its contents thro' the whole course of the examination. By proposing the proper interrogations, it might certainly have been known whether the box was in Dalgleish's custody when taken ? What orders Bothwell had given about the box ? When he found it ? Whether open or locked ? If open, what it contained ? and where he had directions to carry it ? The remark is shrewd and pertinent, and strikes home at the genuineness of the letters ; for it cannot be supposed, that a person of Morton's understanding would have omitted putting their authenticity beyond doubt, had he not found himself gruelled with respect to the means, and been conscious that such questions would only have betrayed the forgery. Besides, Dalgleish was seized on the 20th of June, 1567 ; and the first mention

tion and appearance of the letters is in an act of Murray's secret council, dated the 4th of September following, near six months after their discovery.

Further, in this act the rebels declare, that their rising in arms against their sovereign, was owing to the share she had in the murder of her husband, the king, as appeared by diverse her privie letters, *written and subscrivit with her awin hand*, and sent by her to James Bothwell, chief executor of the horrible murder; whereas, in an act passed in Murray's first parliament, ten days after the foregoing, concerning the queen's detention, it is said to be from 'her awin default, in sa far as be divers her privie letters, written haelie, or wholly with her awin hand.' This contrariety of expresseion in the two acts, our author deems another presumption of forgery; contrary to the opinion of the ingenious Mr. Hume, who considers it as of no consequence, and proceeding from the inaccuracy or blunder of the clerk: 'for, (says he) the letters were only wrote by the queen, the second contract with Bothwell was only *subscribed*.' Our author, on the other hand, is of opinion, that these words cannot be applied to a contract, which can neither be said to have been written or sent by the queen to Bothwell, or to any other writings whatever but the letters; and this opinion is the better confirmed, as they ground their reasons in both acts for taking up arms against the queen, and detaining her person, expressly on 'divers her privie letters.' It is also improbable, he thinks, that Murray, Morton, and secretary Lethington, would have trusted the compiling of these acts to a blundering clerk, or let such an obvious blunder escape them. If, therefore, the letters are genuine, he cannot see how so strange a discordance can be explained; if they be supposed spurious, a reason for this extraordinary conduct, may, in his opinion, be assigned. He quotes the remark of Dr. Robertson, which must be allowed truly ingenious, that when a paper is forged with a particular intention, the eagerness of the forger always prompts him to avoid all doubts or uncertainties, and to be as explicit as possible. This might be the case with Mary's enemies. To make the letters to Bothwell fully conclusive against the queen, might very naturally excite them at first to affix her subscription to them, in which shape they were asserted to be written and subscribed with her own hand; but on mature deliberation, reflecting that they contained such 'foul mateir, and abominable to be either thought of or written by a prince,' as might stagger the belief of many persons, they might naturally be induced to sink the subscription in the copies produced before the parliament, and in place of the words *written and subscrivit*, by

the queen, to substitute *hælie written with her awin hand*, in which form they ever afterwards appeared. This, however, is a conjecture, which, in our opinion, does not satisfactorily remove the difficulty any more than Mr. Hume's; for if we allow that Mary had actually written the letters, which alone shocks credibility, there seems no reason to deny her subscribing them, since the hand-writing in the letter would as clearly discover the author as the subscription *.

After some other curious strictures, founded upon Mr. Goodall's remarks, our author proceeds to the appearance of the letters before the English commissioners, with whom Buchanan and Lethington held several private conferences, in order to prejudice them against the queen; artfully concealing their secret practices from her commissioners, who, at that time, had instructions from Mary to call for the proofs of Murray and Moreton's charge, to demand a sight of the original letters, which she asserts to be false, feigned, forged, and invented by themselves. This equitable demand, though pressed again on the 3d of December, 1568, was not only refused by Elizabeth, but a declaration made by the English queen, that she would receive proof from Murray and Moreton of the truth of the accusation; a proceeding, against which Mary's commissioners remonstrated as unjust and unprecedented, protesting they would advance no farther in the conference †.

After this Mary would have been satisfied with copies of the letters, offering to rest her defence upon them; a request which Elizabeth found means to wave, though she could not avoid publicly acknowledging its equity, and giving directions to have it complied with; a particular which our author proves upon

* It is remarkable that Crawford, a cotemporary writer, bishop Lesly in his defence, and the queen herself, in repeated letters, all assert, that there were persons about the court, Lethington, in particular, who had often counterfeited her majesty's hand; however, no particular instances of their forgery, except the present, are produced.

† Here our author observes, after Goodall, that the only apology made by Murray and his party for their rebellion, and confining the queen's person, was the proofs of her guilt discovered in the letters; yet their rebellion begun in May, she was imprisoned on the 15th of June, the letters were not discovered till the 20th of June, nor used as a pretext for their rebellion and violence till the 4th of December; the strongest presumption this, that the letters were fabricated for the occasion.

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undoubted testimony. Instead of a copy of the letters, an extract of a *writing* was delivered to Mary's commissaries before the conference broke up, which contained not a word of the letters, and was probably no more than a transcript of the accusation, serving to give some specious answer to Mary's just demand. Mary went farther; she promised, upon sight of the letters, to prove not only her own innocence, the forgery, but also to fix the guilt on Murray and his adherents, as actual perpetrators, or at least accessories to the king's murder.

Murray and his adherents were dismissed: on the 11th of January, 1569, the conference broke up, the box with the original letters were carried into Scotland, and Murray screened from answering to queen Mary's charge. Further, to elude this princess's request to have even copies of them delivered to her, the bishop of Ross and lord Herries are called to court, and acquainted by Cecil, 'that hir majestie quene Elizabeth will not refuis unto the quene, hir guid sifter, to give the dowbills of all that was productit;' but with this certification, that Mary sign a writing, promising 'that scho well answer to the samen wringis and things laid to her charge, but only exceptioun.' Mary's minister immediately answered, that what Cecil now desired was already done by two several letters under her hand, and sealed with her seal; to which answer Cecil made no reply. Our author thinks this demand of Elizabeth's absurd and unnecessary; yet we must own, that to us it appears extraordinary why Mary should not rather comply with it, than have the duplicates refused; for by doing this she would have given the world further proofs of her sincerity, and driven Elizabeth to her last shifts. It must be confessed, however, that the above account of the letters, and of Elizabeth's conduct, attested by the exprefs words of the records, varies so much from Mr. Hume's relation, that we are astonished to see a writer so ingenious, so learned, and so penetrating, fall into such prejudices, so inconsistent with charity and good nature; virtues which we never heard denied him. Here our author enters upon a close examination of Mr. Hume's narration, and acquits himself like an able critic; but it would exceed our bounds to enter upon the detail. Let us however observe, that it is highly probable Mary procured a copy by the following year, as the letters were then in every body's hands, in such a manner, at least, as Elizabeth thought proper they should appear; but that this was refused her while the commissioners were sitting, is undeniable; nor can it easily be conceived, had she procured copies when she first demanded them, how she could by these have detected

the forgery, an inspection of the originals, appearing to us to be absolutely necessary, so far as regards the hand-writing.

Our author now proceeds to give an abstract of Mr. Goodall's arguments, to prove that the French copies of the letters, which have passed for genuine transcripts of the original, among all historians and antiquaries since that time, are actually translations from Buchanan's Latin version of the original Scotch. It is observed, that the thoughts in the latter are easily and sententiously turned, abounding in phrases and proverbs peculiar to that language, servilely, and sometimes erroneously expressed in the Latin, and the errors from thence translated into the French, in a manner opposite to the idiom of the language. Nothing can be more learned, ingenious, and accurate than this criticism of Goodall's : it may be sufficient to quote the following examples.

'1. The Scotch says proverbially, in letter first, 'thair's na receipt (meaning a prescription of physic) can serve againis feir.' The Latin has 'nullum adversus timorem esse medicinam.'

'And the French is, 'qu'il n'y avoit point de remede contre la crainte.'

'2. Scotch, 'ze have *sair* going to see *seik* folk.' Another proverbial saying.

'The Latin translator has here committed no less than two blunders, he mistook the word *sair* (or fore) for *fair*, and the word *seik* for *sic*, (or such) and has translated them both erroneously in the last sense :

"*Bella hujusmodi hominum visitatio.*" And the French copies him thus: 'voyla une *belle* visitation de *telles* gens.'

'3. The queen is made to say, that she was going to seek her rest till to-morrow, 'quhen, (says she) I fall end my *bybill*,' in place of her *bylle*, (or bill) a word used commonly at that time for any sort of writing. The transcriber, from the resemblance of the two words, made it *bibyll*; the Latin follows him in this absurdity, 'ego eo ut meam quietem inveniam in crastinum, ut tum mea *biblia* finiam; and the French follows him thus: 'je m'en vay pour trouver mon repos jusques au lendemain, afin que je finisse icy ma *bible*.'

Mr. Hume, and Dr. Robertson, have, it seems, both confessed the truth of this criticism, but make light, says our author, of the discovery. Dr. Robertson's words are, 'all this author's (Goodall's) premises may be granted, and yet his conclusions will not follow, unless he likewise prove, that the French letters, as we now have them, are a true copy of those which were produced

duced by Murray and his party in the Scots parliament, and at York and Westminster: but this he has not attempted.' Our author's remark upon this observation is truly ingenious.

' Mr. Goodall (says he) is obliged to the learned Dr. Robertson, for having done it for him in his dissertation, by fairly acknowledging, ' that Buchanan made his translation not from the French, but from the Scotch copy.' Is not this downright conviction? The historian here ingenuously tells the truth, tho' perhaps he was not aware of the consequences. Had there been any other French letters than the present, what occasion had Buchanan for the Scotch, when he himself must have had possession of the originals? The dissertator had certainly forgot that Buchanan was actually one of the assistants appointed to the Scotch commissioners, and entrusted with the conduct of the whole process; and did, with Lethington, Makgill, and Wood, a lord of the session, exhibit the original letters, and explain their contents in private to the English commissioners. Buchanan could not have lost or mislaid them, because it is evident from Mr. Anderson's account, that those letters were translated by Buchanan at London in the time of the conferences.

' The point in question is, whether such French letters ever existed? Surely it is a fair conclusion to assert, that if they did not exist with Buchanan, they did not exist at all; and if the Scotch commissioners, who were said to produce them, never saw them, nobody else ever did. It cannot be pretended that Buchanan did not understand the French; he passed most of his life in that country, and taught a school there. Indeed since the dissertator has been drove to deny that the French letters before us are true copies of the originals, by all laws of proof and criticism, it was his business to produce these originals. But how is it possible to fix men, who, after having, for two hundred years, quoted and insisted on these letters as originals, and have even commended the elegance of their composition, on finding themselves forced to give them up, have now recourse to other letters, which they acknowledge to be lost; and now pretend to say, were never seen, even by Buchanan, who was employed by the public to produce them. It was never till this day insinuated by any of the partisans against queen Mary, that the present French letters were vitiated translations. Not even Morton himself, nor Buchanan, who lived many years after their publication, ever said so; which it was incumbent on them to have done. The silence therefore of those two persons, who had the originals in their hands, is a clear testimony to the authenticity of the present French copy, which now stands in place of the original. That they are vitiated translations,

was never pretended by any body, until Mr. Goodall, in the year 1755, detected those letters, and proved them, to a demonstration, to be so. Every body must be sensible, that the concession now made, would have come with a much better grace, had it been prior to Mr. Goodall's discovery: it therefore becomes incumbent upon those, who dispute their own copies, to produce the originals themselves. Mr. Hume will perhaps tell us again, 'that it is in vain, at this day, to object to the letters, they were regularly and judicially given in, and ought to have been canvassed at the time.' I heartily agree with him. Had the queen remained silent at the time when Murray produced his letters, I truly think his argument must have been conclusive; but did she remain silent on that occasion? On the contrary, she cried aloud, that her adversaries had produced forged writings against her: she prayed in vain, by repeated supplications, that they might be inspected by her or her friends; and at last, only begged to have copies of them, and she undertook to prove the forgery. What was the result of all this? The letters are huddled back in haste to Murray and Morton, and they are sent a packing to Scotland, with their evidence. What they did with them after that, there is no body, at this day, can tell. We are told they are lost, and that is the sum of the story. The conclusion to be drawn from this, is left to every impartial person to infer, as he thinks fit.'

He goes on in refuting his two learned opponents with equal precision and strength of argument; but it is not possible for us to follow him through this curious labyrinth of criticism. An examination of Dr. Robertson's arguments for the authenticity of the letters, forms the next chapter. If he has failed in any point, it is here. There is something so refined, so penetrating, and ingenious, in the doctor's remarks, as must be allowed to give him an appearance of superiority, as a polemic, over almost every opponent. Yet such fine-spun presumptive evidence is, perhaps, not the most natural method of discovering the truth: it is, perhaps, impossible for an honest man to put himself in the situation of a villain, and discover, from his own feelings, what would pass in the breast of a forger, eager upon carrying a point of so much consequence as this in question. A certain irksomeness arising from delicacy of sentiment, and remorse of conscience, intirely alters the situation of his breast, from that of the determined, resolute, and abandoned criminal. Even the fear of shame, and a thousand other little circumstances, occasion his setting about any transaction of this nature, in a manner wholly different. Our author might therefore have very well omitted a particular *critique* on Dr. Robertson's

bertson's Dissertation, as the principal points were sufficiently discussed in the former part of his work ; and as it would not be possible to draw up so fine a chain of presumptions, on whatever side truth lay, without such powers, and such a genius as the dissertator's. He might indeed have recapitulated, and placed in a collective view a variety of circumstances favourable to Mary, which he had before separately proved. For instance, Murray took arms in May ; the queen was imprisoned on the 15th of June ; the letters were not discovered before the 20th of June ; they were not produced till the 4th of December, though they are affirmed in the acts to have given birth to the rebellion ; a contradiction appears in the acts passed in Murray's secret council and parliament ; Dalgleish was tried a few days after the box, containing the letters, is said to have been taken upon him ; yet no questions are put to him, where he found it, whether he was carrying it, what were its contents, or to his apprehenders, whether the box was actually in his custody when he was taken ? Mary, during the conference, frequently demands a sight of the original letters, by which alone the forgery could be proved, which she is refused ; she then offers to rest her defence even upon copies, but this also is waved during the sitting of the commissioners : she offers to plead her innocence before Elizabeth, and the foreign ambassadors ; this likewise is refused : she proposes to turn the machinations of her enemies against themselves, by proving Murray and Morton abettors of the murder ; but they are permitted to return to Scotland, and with them the box of original letters : the natural disposition of Elizabeth, and the genius of her politics, are strong presumptions that she sought every opportunity of finding Mary guilty ; the French copies of the letters have been universally received as originals, yet are they proved to be spurious ; the letters contain such matters, as no woman who would preserve the least shadow of modesty, no person of common understanding, would have set down upon paper, and none but a madman would have kept. Lethington had often counterfeited the queen's hand ; he could not have done it upon a more important occasion. Dalgleish, Hay, Hepburn, and Powrie, Bothwell's servants, tried and executed in June, 1567, all acquit Mary with their dying breaths from any accession to the murder ; and this is attested by eighteen Scottish peers, eight bishops, and eight abbots, then present in Scotland. Nicholas Hubert, affirmed by Murray and his faction to be the confident of the whole intrigue between Mary and Bothwell, and the bearer of the letters, is never produced as an evidence against her at the conference ; on the contrary, he is hurried down from the ordinary seat of justice to a remote prison in St. Andrews, Murray's
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place of residence, with a view probably to tamper with him. Murray is accused of the murder by Mary, yet Hubert is never produced as an evidence for him, though, in the pretended confession afterwards published for his, he is made to vindicate the earl, or what is similar in effect, highly to extol his character. But here we shall use the words of our author :

‘ Let us now see the method Murray takes to wipe off this foul aspersion, and to avoid all suspicion of practising by the force of torture or promises, upon a poor, ignorant, friendless creature, then in his hands, to mould him to his purpose. Does he send him to London to be examined before the English council, as his other witnesses, Crawford, and Nelson, had been ? Does he even venture to produce him before his own privy council at Edinburgh, to be interrogated there ? Or, lastly, does he bring him to a public trial, in the ordinary form, before the high court of justiciary at Edinburgh, as was allowed to Dalglish, and the other servants of Bothwell ? No ! As to these last, the experiment had not at all succeeded. In spite of torture, they had, with their dying breath, spoke out the truth, and acquitted the queen. This man, Paris, was the last card Murray had to play ; a new method, therefore, must be followed with respect to him. He was secreted from public view, was carried to an obscure dungeon in Murray’s citadel of St. Andrews ; there he was kept hid from all the world, and at last condemned by the earl of Murray himself, in a manner no body knows how : and several months after his death, a confession in his name, taken clandestinely, without mentioning any person who was present when it was made by Paris, is privately sent up to London, (and given in to Cecil, but at what period no body can tell) accusing the queen in the blackest terms, and extolling the earl of Murray to the skies. And, to crown the whole, this precious piece of evidence is kept a profound secret from the queen and her friends, who, as we shall by and by prove, never once saw or heard of this confession.—Where facts thus speak aloud, reflections are needless.

‘ All that remains of this poor creature, are two confessions, one on the 9th, and the other on the 10th of August 1569. The first, said to be the original, and marked on some of the leaves with the initial letters of his name, thus N, is still extant in the Cotton library. This confession loads Bothwell with murder, but mentions nothing of the queen or the letters. The other confession, of the 10th of August, expressly charges the queen as accessory to the whole, of this last we have a copy, attested by one Alexander Hay, a notary, and clerk to Murray’s privy council ; and which, we see by an authentic paper, was sent

sent to London by Murray, in October 1569, as a further proof of his accusation against the queen, after all the conferences were over.

‘ That these confessions were kept secret, and never shown to Mary, is certain from the following circumstances.

‘ The only cotemporary writers, who mention the condemnation and death of this Frenchman, are but two, Lesly bishop of Ross, and the author of the manuscript history of Scotland, during the reign of queen Mary, and the four regents, Murray, Lennox, Mar, and Morton, published by Crawford, historiographer to queen Anne. This last author, who was at that time a living witness, mentions the condemnation of Paris in these words: ‘ The regent (Murray) proceeded from Stirling to St. Andrews, where Nicknavin for sorcery was burnt; and Paris, a Frenchman, was hanged for the murder of the late king, *tho’ he denied the fact.*’

‘ The other cotemporary writer who mentions this Frenchman, is Lesly bishop of Ross, one of Mary’s commissioners, and at that time in the character of her ambassador at London. He drew up an apology, intitled, ‘ A defence of the honour of queen Mary,’ which was printed at London in the end of the year 1569, soon after the execution of Paris.

‘ The bishop, in mentioning this man, uses the words following: ‘ As for him that ye *surmise* was the bearer of the letters, and whome you have executed of late for the said murther, he, at the time of his said execution, tooke it upon his death, as he should answer before God, that he never carried any such letters, nor that the queene was participant, nor of counsayle in the cause.’ From the words ‘ the person whom ye *surmise* was the bearer,’ it is plain, that neither the queen nor Lesly had either seen or heard of this confession of Paris, which is made to acknowledge this fact, of his being the bearer of the letters, in expresse terms. And the above passage from Crawford, fully explains the good reason that Murray then had, for keeping this pretended confession of Paris, a profound secret to all, except his own confederates, and secretary Cecil, viz. Because it was at this time universally known, by every body in Scotland, that this very Paris, at his execution, had publicly given the lie to any pretended confession, by solemnly denying the fact.’

We cannot dwell on such particulars; a thousand other circumstances concur in favour of Mary, at least as strong as any produced against her by those ingenious gentlemen, who, we may venture to say, have at least taken the uncharitable side of the question.

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With respect to the historical collection, exhibited in his last chapter, by our author, of the direct or positive evidence still on record, tending to shew what part the earls of Murray and Morton had in the murder of lord Darnley, it is curious; but a whole Review would be scarce sufficient to place the facts in a conspicuous point of view. From the most impartial and attentive perusal, we are, however, of opinion, that the arguments produced by Mr. Hume, and Dr. Robertson, in their Vindication, are fully answered, and that horrible transaction fixed as clearly on the earls as ever it was upon the queen. Such indeed are the allegations on both sides, that the truth must ever remain problematical; and this a question which may afford scope for the display of talents, but never proofs or presumptions that can amount to conviction. In a word, our author has in general acquitted himself with great ability and address; he has invalidated the evidence against Mary, but he has not fully established her innocence; he has brought strong presumptions against Murray and Morton, but he has not convicted them; he has made a judicious assemblage of facts, but he has failed in placing them in the strongest light; and, lastly, he has distinguished himself as a critic of parts, but appears to less advantage as a casuist and rhetorician: these are our undisguised sentiments of this performance, which we offer with the utmost regard to truth, and respect for two gentlemen most deservedly esteemed in the republic of letters.

ART. II. *Reflections of a Portuguese upon the Memorial presented by the Jesuits to his present Holiness Pope Clement XIII. Translated from the Copy printed by Authority at Lisbon. To which is added, the Opinion of the Congregation of Cardinals, to whom the said Memorial was referred by the Pope.* 8vo. Pr. 2s. Millar.

WE believe the jesuits, so long the objects of hatred and envy, were never attacked by a foe of more zeal and ability than our author. Every thrust is aimed at a vital part, and pressed home with such bitterness, as calls for all the skill and address of a society highly famed for dexterity in the science of defence. Languishing and faint as they appear at present, it is a bold attempt in any private person to declare himself their irreconcilable enemy: even kings have trembled at their resentment, and the triple crown has shook on the head of Christ's vicar with the blasts of jesuitical calumny. Firm, learned, and virulent as our author may be, they will not fail of retaliating and recoiling back the blow with redoubled force. It must indeed be acknowledged, that any endeavours

deavours to avenge themselves will in some measure be justifiable, since the Portuguese *remarker* appears inflamed with a rancorous spirit of animosity, which carries him frequently to the most vilifying and opprobrious reflections on a whole body of men, many of whom, undoubtedly, deserve an exemption from the general charge. To the honour of the society it will be confessed by every candid person, that they have laboured with indefatigable industry in the vineyard of learning: in quest of knowledge they have penetrated the remotest countries; they have combated dangers, and surmounted difficulties almost incredible; they have exposed themselves to the inclemency of climates, the ferocity of barbarous and savage nations in every quarter of the globe; in a word, they have extended religion, arts and commerce, with an enthusiasm of zeal, steadiness and courage, unknown to any other sect of men. Their discoveries in Asia, Africa, and America, have proved highly beneficial to Europe; their observations have been equally useful to trade and science. Let us not therefore search the heart too scrupulously; whatever were the motives which impelled them, we have reaped the fruits of their diligence: if they have sometimes misled the consciences of kings, let us ascribe it to individuals, and not to the whole body. If they have protected guilty members, and skreened them from the rigour of the laws, was it from an attachment to vice, or out of opposition to the malice of their enemies, who embraced every occasion of aspersing the whole society? They have sometimes abused the ear of majesty to serve the purposes of ambition; and where are the ecclesiastics who would not? To conclude, the vices of individuals have been glaring and notorious, and so have the virtues; though it would perhaps be an error to ascribe either to the fundamental principles of the society, of which we know but little, except from apostates, who are scarce to be credited after a breach of the most solemn oaths and obligations.

In a protestant country like this, blessed with all that freedom in thought, word and action can bestow, it will not be imagined we set up for a defence of the jesuits, because candour obliges us to allow them their just claims. No; we detest and abhor many of their doctrines; but can we approve those of any other order of Romaniists? The same spirit of persecution prevails among all; but with the jesuits it proceeds from ill-judged policy; with all the other sects from blind superstition, bigotry, or ignorance. They alone, of all the missionaries sent to the East and West, have been mindful of the interests of learning, while they were pushing those of religion
and

and policy. What treasures of science have they imported from barbarous countries, procured in exchange for the lights of the gospel! In this point of view we would willingly regard them, without suffering the depravity of a few to cancel the obligations we owe to the whole: there was one false apostle out of twelve; shall we suppose there are not many out of so numerous a society?

With respect to the performance before us, it is shrewd, bitter, and intelligent; but favours too much of passion and invective to be deemed candid. Every line of the memorial presented by the father-general of the society, in the year 1758, to the pope, previous to the expulsion of the order out of Portugal, is examined; the conduct of the jesuits from their first institution rigidly canvassed; crimes of the deepest dye laid to their charge; murder, perjury, treason, lust, avarice, and every vice the most opposite to the laws of nature and society imputed to them. Nor can it be deny'd but all of these crimes have been committed by jesuits, though it is unsound logic to refer them to the whole body, and stigmatize any community for the misdemeanours of certain worthless rotten members belonging to it. Such, however, is frequently the reasoning of our author, which he confirms by facts committed by individuals, and by passages extracted from the works of pious jesuits, who lament the general depravity of the order. God forbid that the preachers of the most pure religion in our own country should be try'd by similar evidence! Can it be denied but the clergy here, as well as elsewhere, have among them persons who would disgrace a nation of savages; or will it be said that the clergy of England are immoral, because a late writer of their own body, and several others we could name, have taxed them with looseness of manners, and indifference about religion? These are the general topics of satyrist in all ages, and have been themes of declamation against communities of every kind.

Let not the reader suppose, from what we have said, that we think the society of Jesus innocent of the whole charge. No; we now speak with respect to our author, who has weakened his accusation by deducing general arguments from one or two particular instances. Too much truth still appears; had the writer confined himself to that, we should think better of his judgment, and worse of the jesuits. 'The jesuits, says he, stand evidently convicted of having long carried on a public and general trade, whereby they have incurred many canonical censures.' It may be so; but should this alter our sentiments of them more than holding pluralities will of ecclesiastics of the pro-

testant

testant church? There is nothing criminal in trade, but as it contradicts the express canons of the church; and does not the avowed practice of our own clergy equally trespass against the spiritual laws? It is the passion of the jesuits for intrigue, their ambition, pride, mysteriousness, tergiversation, cruelty and treachery that render them the pests of society. To these objects our author ought to have confined himself: every assertion respecting these points might have been clearly proved from the uniform, invariable conduct of the whole body; from the tenets of their order; the doctrine laid down by their best writers, and the facts related by the most candid and impartial historians.

‘ To invalidate the pope’s decisions, the jesuits, says our author, have insolently pretended to shew, that his holiness was not a sound divine; thereby setting aside the infallibility of the papal decision, not indeed with respect to the promises of Christ, and the chair of St. Peter, but as to the knowledge of the popes in matters of divinity. At last they carried their insolence and iniquity to such a height, as to make it a subject of public dispute, whether Clement VIII. was truly and lawfully pope; and with this spirit it was, that, on June 22, 1707, father Porquet maintained the two following propositions: *That the pope cannot decide infallibly touching the disputes concerning China. The popes in the church cannot define infallibly what is an idol.*’ Allegations such as these rather excite our mirth than any resentment against the jesuits; they could only be urged by superstition, and received as arguments injurious to the character of the society, by ignorance itself: however they might pass in Spain and Portugal, they will surely be laughed at in England, and have no other effect than lessening our opinion of a writer, otherwise sensible and sarcastic. It must after all be confessed this kind of reasoning is well calculated to the meridian of a rigid catholic, who persuades himself the blackest crime human nature is capable of committing, is denying the pope’s infallibility, and weakning his pretensions to supremacy. It might therefore be wrong to charge this as a fault upon the writer; since he is the best advocate and most judicious pleader, who levels his arguments to the understandings of his judges. What in this country may be deemed blemishes in the writer, ought perhaps, with respect to circumstances, to be regarded as masterly strokes of art and refinement in controversy.

The variety of particulars contained in these reflections renders it difficult to couch the substance within the limits of an article; the reader must therefore be satisfied with the general idea of the work we have given; or if he desires a more intimate knowledge of the subject, with our assurance that his
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time and money will not be mispent in the perusal and purchase of this curious tract. That nothing, however, in our power may be wanting to his satisfaction, we have here subjoined the opinion of the congregation of cardinals assembled by pope Clement XIII. his present holiness, to examine the memorial presented by the jesuits to his predecessor Benedict XIV.

“ In order to form a sound judgment concerning the affair of the jesuits, who live in the dominions of the king of Portugal, it is necessary to elucidate the truth of the fact. They have been accused to this holy see, touching several matters, by his most faithful majesty. Pope Benedict XIV. admitted the accusation, and not being able personally to determine the matter, he referred it to his eminence the cardinal of Saldanha, than whom no one is more unexceptionable, or more capable, either by reason of his great learning, or of his high dignity, which approaches the nearest of any to that of the pope, or of his abilities, to make the necessary inquiries, and distinguish truth from falsehood; he being a person free from interest or passion, for, or against, either of the parties; extremely exact; filled with a zeal truly ecclesiastic, and with a most perfect submission to the head of the church, as may be seen by the nuncio's information.

“ This cardinal, who received the brief by which he was declared visitor of the company of Jesus, took for secretary to the visitation, the lord Magalhaes, one of the prebendary-prelates of this patriarchal church, a man of character and learning, and well versed in the civil and ecclesiastical laws, as the same lord nuncio testifies.

“ This brief was juridically notified to the jesuits, and a proper act, or attestation of this notification was drawn up. The provincial and the procurator of the Indies, as is believed, waited on the lord cardinal, and acknowledged him for visitor. Some time ago the cardinal published an edict, declaring the fathers of the company guilty of trading and merchandizing; which is clearly proved beyond all sort of doubt.

“ The memorial is set up in opposition to this edict, and is the object now to be examined. It contains two parts; the one tending to disculpate, the other to supplicate. The same weight and credit ought to be given to the excuses made use of here, as is commonly given to similar memorials of offenders; it being well known how unwilling men are to confess their guilt, especially when they do not stand acquitted before the tribunal of conscience; and, above all, when their excuses are addressed to
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a sovereign who has not begun the process, and is not acquainted with the fact. If a criminal condemned by the Roman government has recourse to the pope, though the crime in question was committed under his eyes, he is referr'd to his judge; and there ought not to be any other method of proceeding, nor can there, without over-turning the course of justice, and dishonouring the judge, by making him pass for an ignorant or corrupt man. The same may be said in the present case, with regard to interfering in it, before sentence is given, or heeding the excuses in the memorial under examination. There is still another and a stronger reason, which is, that the criminals themselves are not the persons who speak in this memorial, but their superiors, who confess that they are ignorant of the fact.

“ To interfere now in this visitation (which is only beginning) would be doing a considerable injury to the cardinal visitor. It would be arraigning the credit and honour of the holy see, which has intrusted him with the executive power of its decrees, and that, *absque dilatazione quæ executionem quoquo modo impediatur*. If that should happen, no one would be found who would undertake to execute such commissions.

“ The second, or supplicatory part of the memorial demands, first, that the innocent may not be punished; secondly, that a due regard be paid to the useful and just correction of the guilty; and thirdly, that the credit of the whole order be considered and saved. The two first points are provided for *ipso jure*, and also by the uprightness and abilities of the judge to whom this affair is committed. What may be doubted is, whether the judge can, consistently with the rigour of both the canon and civil laws, which he is obliged to observe, restrict his sentence to only an useful correction, without proceeding against the offenders so as to subject them to the just and useful punishment they deserve. As to the third point, of saving the credit of the company, that will depend on the religious themselves, and particularly on their superiors, who, if they truly and sincerely concur in this reformation, will regain the credit they have now lost among all judicious people, as may be observed in hundreds of books. But if they absolutely prevent it, or delay deserving it, they may deceive some, but not the public, and the company will lose its credit more than ever.

“ With regard to the edict which suspends the jesuits from preaching and confession; since they say they do not know the motives of this suspension, this affair requires all that prudence which the nuncio and the new patriarch are known to be endowed with; and they will accordingly ascertain by new enquiries,

quiries, the truth, or likelihood of truth. And if, in the mean time, it be thought proper to guess at the true cause, it may be said, that knowing evidently by the decree of the cardinal visitor, that these fathers do carry on an universal trade, and that they manifestly refuse to pay any regard to the divine precepts, the doctrine of the holy fathers, the canons of the councils, or the bulls of the popes, the lord patriarch does not think proper to trust the souls of the faithful to one who, *non consulebat animæ suæ*, and to whom it may be said, *medice, cura te- ipsum*.

“ In short, the justest way is to refer this affair, with the remonstrances, and the memorial to the cardinal visitor, in order neither to subvert the course of justice, nor to give subject of discontent to a prelate, who has deserved so well since the first decree. Besides that there is no foundation for taking any other step, which would not only be irregular, but would do no honour to the holy see.

“ This is what conscience, the fitness of things, and justice, dictate to the congregation; not to speak of political reasons which forbid embroiling this court with that of Portugal, which perhaps would not quietly see a cause begun in that country, with the pope's authority and consent, and, at his request, removed hither.

“ No notice is taken here of the complaint made by the jesuits in the memorial, of their not having been heard; because the cardinal visitor has proceeded so regularly, that it seems impossible he should not have heard those fathers; and if they have other things to alledge, they must produce them before the person who is acquainted with the circumstances of the fact.

“ It is likewise idle in them to pretend to fear lest the cardinal visitor should delegate persons either not well intentioned, or ignorant of the institutions of the regulars; because that is attempting to tie up the hands of a judge, and excepting against persons not yet nominated or known.”

What the result of the cardinal of Saldanha's visitation was, every one knows. The jesuits, convicted of high crimes and misdemeanours, were to a man banished from Portugal; which, considering their influence in that kingdom, and the address of the society, may be esteemed an irrefragable proof of their guilt. Upon the whole, we must confess, that our Portuguese author possesses strongly the powers of ridicule and reproof; that he is witty and sanguine, but by no means a logician.

ART. III. *The Annual Register ; or, A View of the History, Politics, and Literature of the Year 1759.* 8vo. Pr. 6s. Doddsley.

THIS performance is of much the same nature with many others that have formerly appeared under the titles of Political states, and Histories of Europe, &c. Its plan, indeed, differs a good deal from theirs, but it may be doubted whether this difference be an improvement or not. The only thing that can be called an original in the compilement before us is, *The history of the present war* during the last campaign. This is divided into nine chapters ; the contents of which we shall insert, in order to give our readers some notion of the order and method in which the author has executed this capital part of his performance.

‘ Chap. I. The inclinations of the powers at war at the closing the last campaign. The king of Spain’s death apprehended. Condition of the king of Prussia, Empress Queen, Russia, Sweden, Holland, France, and England.

‘ Chap. II. The allied army moves. Successful skirmishes on the side of the allies. Battle of Bergen. Prince Ferdinand retires to Windeken. Plan of the campaign. General Woberfnow’s expedition into Poland. Prince Henry’s into Bohemia and Franconia. General Macguire defeated. Bamberg pillaged. Prince Henry returns to Saxony. Hesse abandoned by the allies.

‘ Chap. III. Expedition to the West Indies under Hopson and Moore. Account of Martinico. Failure there. The causes of it. Guadaloupe invaded. Description of that island. Basse Terre attacked and burned. General Hopson dies. Operations against Grand Terre. Several passes forced. The inhabitants capitulate. Bravery of a French lady. Marigalante taken.

‘ Chap. IV. Progress of the French after the battle of Bergen. Munster and other places taken. Situation of the French, and of the allies. Motions of prince Ferdinand. Battle of Minden. Hereditary prince of Brunswic defeats the duke of Brisac. The French pass the Weser. L. G. S. resigns the command of the British forces ; Marquis of Granby succeeds him. The French driven to Marpurg. Siege of Munster. M. d’Etreez arrives at the French camp. Project of France for an invasion. Havre bombarded. Action off Cape Lagos. French fleet defeated.

‘ Chap. V. Count Dohna disgraced. Wedel succeeds him. The Russians enter Silesia. Battle of Zulichau. Russians take

Francfort on the Oder. General Laudohn joins them. King of Prussia joins Wedel. Battle of Cummersdorff. King of Prussia repasses the Oder. Soltikoff and Daun communicate. King of Prussia detaches general Wunsch into Saxony. Parallel of the king of Prussia and prince Ferdinand of Brunswic.

‘ Chap. VI. Plan of the campaign in North America. Three expeditions. Ticonderago and Crown Point abandoned. Col. Townsend killed. Expedition to Niagara. Col. Prideaux killed. Sir William Johnson defeats the French. Takes the fort of Niagara. Consequences of this.

‘ Chap. VII. The expedition against Quebec. The Isle of Orleans occupied. Description of the town and harbour of Quebec. Situation of the French army. Action at the Falls of Montmorenci. General Wolfe sickens. The camp removed to Point Levi. The troops go up the river. The battle of Quebec. General Wolfe killed. French defeated. M. de Montcalm killed. Quebec surrenders. Movements of general Amherst on Lake Champlain.

‘ Chap. VIII. Prince Henry’s march into Saxony. General Vehla defeated. King of Prussia enters Saxony. Prussians defeated at Maxen. Again defeated at Meissen. M. Daun occupies the camp at Pirna. Munster surrenders to the allies. Hereditary prince of Brunswic defeats the duke of Wurtemberg at Fulda. March of the hereditary prince of Brunswic to Saxony.

‘ Chap. IX. The preparations at Vannes and Brest. The English fleet driven from their station. The action near Belleisle. French fleet defeated. War in the East Indies in 1758. French fleet under M. d’Ache twice beaten. M. de Lally takes Fort St. David’s, and repulsed at Tanjour. Lays siege to Madras. Obligated to raise the siege.’

We have perused this part of the work with due care and attention; and we cannot but in justice own there is some merit in its execution. The reflections upon the present state of affairs, and the contending parties, appear to be just and solid; and the conjectures drawn from the characters, views, and situation of the principal personages, seem to discover a good deal of sagacity and penetration, tho’ perhaps they may be sometimes liable to the censure of being over-refined. The language is clear and concise, tho’ it does not constantly maintain the historical dignity and simplicity; and when our author attempts the figurative stile, he is not always very happy in his metaphors. As a specimen of his way of writing, we shall here give the parallel which he has drawn between those two great com-

commanders, the king of Prussia, and prince Ferdinand, which he introduces in the following manner. ' But we cannot dismiss the affairs of Germany, in which two such battles as those of Minden and Cunnerdorf were fought, with events so different for the common cause, without observing something concerning the two generals who conducted them.

' They are certainly in reputation the first in Europe, which probably never produced two greater men; tho' they differ as much in their characters, and in the kind of talents they possess, as they agree in the greatness of their abilities for war. The king of Prussia rapid, vehement, impatient, often gives decisive blows; but he often misses his stroke and wounds himself. Prince Ferdinand is cool, deliberate, exact, and guarded; he sees every possible advantage, he takes it at the moment; pursues it as far as it will go, but never attempts to push it further. Nothing in the man disturbs the commander. In him we do not see a person who is a great soldier; it is the idea of a perfect general; it is a general in the abstract. Ferdinand suffers his temper to be guided by his business. He never precipitates matters; he takes them in their order and their course, and trusts nothing to fortune. The king on the other hand leads, and even forces circumstances; he does not endeavour to remove, but to over-leap obstacles; he puts all to the risque; and by suffering fortune to play her part in his designs, he acquires a splendor and eclat in his actions, which mere wisdom could never give them. Prince Ferdinand is famous for never committing a fault. The king of Prussia is above all the world in repairing those he has committed. Like some of the great masters in writing, whenever he makes or seems to make a mistake, it is a signal to the observer to prepare for some great and admirable stroke of spirit and conduct. His errors seem to be spurs to his abilities. He commits an error, he repairs it; he errs again; and again astonishes us by his manner of escaping. We should often condemn the commander, but that we are always forced to admire the hero.'

The second part of this work is called *The chronicle for the year 1759*. This is nothing but a mere collection of dry, unentertaining paragraphs from news-papers; and is not even calculated to afford materials for a history.

The remainder contains miscellaneous collections of state papers, and characters, great part of which are taken from lord Clarendon, and are valuable morceaux; natural history, antiquities, useful projects, and miscellaneous essays, some of

them curious enough, and others, as is unavoidable in all such collections, of no great consequence.

In the last place we have some pieces of poetry, and an account of a few books published in the year 1759. There is a good deal of wit and humour in the two first articles of the poetry, namely, a Simile, and Doll Common, a fragment, in answer to the foregoing ; as also in the copy of verses on the vicar of W—d : most of the rest may, without any injury to the poetical world, be condemned *ad ficum et piperem*. We could even wish, for the honour of our country, that our author had omitted inserting the two odes for the last year, by our poet laureat. One would naturally imagine that it is the office, nay even the duty of a laureat to celebrate the great and shining actions which redound to the glory, honour, and advantage of his country, and have been performed within the circle of that year which affords a subject for his lyrical enthusiasm. A more glorious theme for an ode could not be supplied by the annals of any country whatsoever, than was last year by the gallant exploits of our countrymen ; some of which were attended with circumstances that gave a fair opportunity to the poet to display all his art and skill, and even to endeavour, which seldom happens with propriety, to raise every passion in the human breast, which can be mov'd by the charms of verse and poetical numbers. In short, it was a subject which even a Dryden might have owned was worthy of him, and required the utmost exertion of all his faculties.

ART. IV. *The Law of Bills of Exchange, Promissory Notes, Bank-Notes, and Insurances : Containing all the Statutes, Cases at large, Arguments, Resolutions, Judgments, Decrees, and Customs of Merchants concerning them, methodically digested. Together with Rules and Examples for computing the Exchange between England and the principal Places of Trade in Europe. Also, the Arbitrations of Exchange set in a clear and rational Light, and illustrated with Variety of Examples. By a Gentleman of the Middle Temple. 8vo. Pr. 6s. Owen.*

THE laws of all countries have, in process of time, been swelled to such an enormous bulk, that the study of them has been justly deemed one of the severest tasks a man could impose upon himself ; and the law itself has been often called a bottomless pit. Perhaps this appellation was never more properly

perly applied to it than in our own country. An abridgement of our laws has been lately published, in above twenty large volumes in folio; what must a man think of those laws, an abridgement of which is itself so voluminous? What would an old Roman say of this, who knew of no other laws than those of the twelve tables, not so large as a modern act of parliament? Even in Cicero's time they could not have been very voluminous; for he has declared, in some part of his works, that he could attain to a competent knowledge of them in fourteen days. Had he been an Englishman, and lived in our times, he would have found as many years too few for such a task: but this is not the worst; this evil, greatly as it is to be complained of, still continues to encrease. Every session of parliament, every sitting of the courts, adds new bulk, and new volumes to our laws; and statutes, precedents, and decisions, are daily and continually multiplying: so that it is to be feared, the realm itself will at last become unable to contain the laws of the realm.

No doubt the great multiplicity and diversity which the increase of commerce, and the refinements of life, have introduced into the affairs and business of men, have, in a great measure, given occasion to the almost infinite number of our laws: but we cannot help thinking, that the policy of our lawyers has contributed prodigiously to the encrease of this mischief. The greater difficulty, obscurity, and mystery, there is in any profession, the greater regard and veneration is paid to its professors; and the greater authority they have over all those who lie under a necessity to consult them in it. It is probably with a view to this, that our lawyers have erected every decision of a court into a sort of a law, a rule, or precedent, by which subsequent decisions are to be directed; a conduct which, in our opinion, is not only productive of great inconveniencies, by rendering the study of the laws extremely perplexed and intricate, but also destitute of any good reason to support it. For if a decision has been unjust and iniquitous, it certainly never ought to have any authority as a precedent in any future trial; on the other hand, if it has been founded on the principles of truth and justice, these principles will, in any future parallel case, be equally discoverable, and equally obligatory. Indeed, with respect to settling forms and methods of procedure, which it is of no great consequence how they are settled, it being only necessary that they are settled some way or other, precedents may be of some use, and this is the most that, we apprehend, can be said in their favour.

The author of the treatise now before us has been of one advantage to the public; he has collected into one body all the laws and cases relating to bills of exchange, promissory notes, bank notes, and insurances, which were before dispersed up and down in the huge and unwieldy volumes of the law; and by this means done an eminent service to all those concerned in these matters, whose numbers are undoubtedly very considerable, being not only all those who are professed merchants, but most of those employed in transacting affairs relating to money-matters, in which the use of bills or notes is found convenient.

The author has divided his work into four chapters, each containing several sections. The first chapter treats of bills of exchange; this head is divided into the following sections:

‘Sect. I. Of the nature and freedom of trade and traffic, or exchange.

‘Sect. II. Of the antiquity and various kinds of exchange.

‘Sect. III. Of foreign bills.

‘Sect. IV. Of inland bills.

‘Sect. V. What shall be deemed a bill of exchange within the custom of merchants.

‘Sect. VI. Of the acceptance.—What shall be deemed a good acceptance.—Where acceptance shall bind.

‘Sect. VII. Of the protest: the necessity and validity thereof: when to be made, and of giving notice to the drawer of the drawee’s refusal.

‘Sect. VIII. Of the indorsement.

‘Sect. IX. Who shall pay the money, and of demanding it from the drawer, and suing him and the indorser and acceptor.

‘Sect. X. Of the action and remedy on a bill of exchange; and the manner of declaring and pleading thereon.

‘Sect. XI. Of the evidence necessary to support the action on a bill of exchange.

‘Sect. XII. Of the damages recovered for non-payment.’

From the nature of this work it is impossible to give an abridgement, and of no use to give a specimen. Those who are obliged to inform themselves of the matters it treats of, will naturally have recourse to the book itself, with which we doubt not they will find reason to be satisfied.

ART. V. *Bibliotheca Biographica : A Synopsis of Universal Biography, ancient and modern. Containing a circumstantial and curious Detail of the Lives, Actions, Opinions, Writings, and Characters of the most celebrated Persons of both Sexes, of all Ranks, in all Countries, and in all Ages : Alphabetically disposed. Particularly Emperors, Kings, Statesmen, Generals, and Admirals ; Popes, Cardinals, Prelates, Fathers, and Arch-Heretics ; Divines, Philosophers, Historians, Orators, Civilians, Poets, learned Ladies, Painters, and Players. Including also, the personal as well as public History of our Sovereigns, from the Conquest ; with many hundred Lives of British Worthies, whose virtuous Acts adorn the Annals of these Kingdoms. By Thomas Flloyd, Esq; In three Volumes, 8vo. Pr. 18s. Baldwin.*

THERE is scarce any branch of knowledge, which in the present age has not been inculcated under the form of a dictionary ; and this has become necessary, from the immense extension of all kinds of history and science.

The additions necessarily every day made to history, will at last introduce abridgements ; and the easiest, and perhaps the most agreeable form such abridgements can assume, is that of an alphabetical one. Suidas, Photius, and others, found it necessary to endeavour to contract the multifarious knowledge of their times into abridgements of this nature ; by which means we have several facts, occurrences, and anecdotes handed down, which would otherwise have been buried in oblivion. We are therefore inclined to look upon every epitome, of the nature of that which now lies before us, in which the outlines of every great character are justly preserved, to be not only amusing for the present, but the most likely method of transmitting the accounts of the great to posterity.

The characters and anecdotes of this work (small we may call it, considering what a variety it comprizes) are such as are striking, interesting, and satisfactory : the author seems to walk between the tedious prolixity and minuteness of some biographers, and the uninforming brevity of others. ‘ In favour of such a design (says our author in his preface) it must be allowed, that the generality of readers are well contented, in their historical researches, to obtain *the knowledge of facts*, and of such personal anecdotes as at once characterize, entertain, and instruct : copious extracts from books, and large critical notes, frequently upon speculative points, are, perhaps, foreign to their purpose. Such illustrations have deservedly found a place
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in the larger biographies : but they have been the means of prodigiously swelling their bulk.

‘ In order, as far as possible, to preserve, at least the capital advantages of such collections, and yet contract the size, and thereby lessen the price ; it has been advised, from such ample materials, to attempt a *selection* of those lives only that appear to be interesting. Something of this sort was done by monsieur Ladvocat, at Paris ; and, very lately, another work larger in extent, but very much of the same kind, was published at Avignon. Both were well received and highly commended abroad, which, to avow the truth, induced the adopting of this plan. But before our first volume was far advanced, it became but too evident, that the desire of rendering articles very numerous, had introduced some of little significance, and diminished, at the same time, the space requisite for giving a just scope to those of greater importance. It was resolved to correct this error, the moment it was discovered, by inserting only memorable lives, and giving every essential event and date that could be procured.

‘ Not however to pass an arbitrary sentence on that method of abridging, which it must be admitted has been received by many with approbation ; or to preclude the reader’s judgment, by condemning these succinct articles to oblivion, we thought it best, to throw them entirely into a supplemental volume ; which probably will soon appear. By the help of this method, those names will occur there, which, for the reason before-mentioned, we thought it expedient to omit here, with the few remarkable facts that regard them. In order to give still greater satisfaction, or at least to put it into the inquisitive peruser’s power, to procure it for himself, we shall indicate, at the close of the proper articles, the large collection, where they are to be met with ; and by this contrivance, our fourth volume, will not barely form an appendix to this, but, which cannot surely prove unacceptable, become at the same time an useful *index* to the larger performances in our own language. Taking therefore these advantages together, we flatter ourselves that we shall not be thought to fall far short of the promise made in our title ; and that whoever consults this repository of biographical learning, will be seldom disappointed.

‘ It may be also proper to observe, that sometimes the articles of our nobility are placed under their respective titles, and sometimes under the names of their families ; and as the spelling of titles and surnames is very precarious, and we have not room to take in all their varieties, it will be safest to run through the whole

whole of the initial letter to which it belongs, before an article is concluded to be wanting. As to the biographers in our own language, we very freely acknowledge, and are sincerely grateful for the assistance we have received from them; and are fully persuaded, that our compendium, instead of injuring, will extend their reputation, enhance the credit, and excite a more general attention to their useful labours; which, without all doubt, are as requisite in a library, as we incline to hope ours will be fit for the closet. But besides the lives drawn from these, we may presume to say, that many appear here for the first time in an English dress, and that there are some which have never appeared at all.'

Among the number we may reckon Hutchenon, Ludwig, Southwell, Wolfe, and several others, whose lives well deserved our notice; and yet which have been remarked upon by few writers of credit amongst us. Indeed, how was it possible, since their virtues have not, till of late, had an opportunity of being sufficiently known.

There is a constant revolution in the pursuits and the knowledge of men; characters this day the object of attention, may the next be regarded with indifference, without any other cause than the alteration of our humour; hence arises the necessity of every age being a critic on the past, and characterising those personages, whose actions seem most connected with modern pursuits and manners. In the present age of philosophy and politeness, our admiration is attached to very different personages from those who employed their attention about a century ago, and consequently a new system of biography is thus rendered necessary in every age. Julian is now looked upon with some share of respect, who was then regarded with horror, and Alexander is now almost an universal object of contempt, who was then the subject of universal panegyric. This is the effect of the progress of reason, who, tho' she proceeds but slowly, and tho' the difference of her situation be scarce discernible in the space of an hundred years, yet her minutest alterations deserve to be registered, and an epitome, properly written, may be the truest picture of the change.

The author has not only given us such anecdotes of eminent personages, as were to be found in the writings of others, but has also supplied several hitherto unpublished: we shall only select one concerning the late princess of Orange.

'I might here (says the historian) close this article without a panegyric on the deceased princess, as knowing that high personages have always flatterers to ascribe virtues to them they never knew,

knew, but that I am assured by a lady of quality, of whose impartiality I am thoroughly persuaded, who knew her royal highness long and well, that I am in no danger of exceeding the truth on this occasion. I shall therefore give an extract from a character of her royal highness, published in French at the Hague, which concludes thus : ' Her heart was firm and magnanimous, her principles were sure and invariable, her opinions constant, founded upon the laws of God, and probity, and justice ; and nothing could alter or change them. She gained the mastery over her passions, over all their illusions and irregular desires. Her heart abhorred vice, and detested falsehood and cunning. Neither fear, nor death itself, ever found her weak or pusillanimous. At the instant in which she lost her dear and illustrious consort, when the veil fell, and exposed to her sight a fearful spectacle, an abyss of grief and pain, she laid her hand on her heart, stifled its murmurs, and imposed silence upon her sorrow. ' I have, said she, a state to preserve ; young innocents to educate ; I have made a solemn promise, to him whom death has just now deprived me of, not to abandon myself to a fruitless grief ; let us exert ourselves, and shew the power of religion and resignation.' Her heart obeyed; and duty turned its back on grief and despair. No vexatious accident, no disappointment could make any impression upon her; from the minute she was assured she had done every thing that it was her duty to do. For a long time past her body, too weak for so strong a mind, began to bend under its efforts ; but she never permitted the least complaint to escape her, and carefully concealed what could not have failed troubling and alarming her children and attendants. She had such a command over herself, as to preserve to the last moment her usual ease and cheerfulness, and inquired of those who attended her, if they could observe any change of temper, and if her patience was any way lessened. It is in that moment, when death presents itself with its mournful retinue, when the world is disappearing from before our eyes, when eternity is opening to us, that we may judge of the effects produced in our heart of the care we have taken to form it, to guard against the fears of death, and to consider it as a natural term, where all our labours, and all our cares are to end. Ready to quit her mortal body, and to leave that other half of herself, her children, so tenderly beloved, seeing herself surrounded by her faithful friends, of whose sincere attachment she was well assured, giving themselves up to the horrors of despair, she thus addressed them, with a firm and steady voice : ' You weep, but why do ye weep? Where is that profound resignation which you owe to the master of the world? Where is that humility and submission, that you should have

have learnt by reading and meditating on the word of God? These tears and sighs, are they the fruits of all you have learnt? Observe me, and do as I have done. I have, as much as I was able, kept my heart clean, and my lips undefiled. I fulfilled my task with chearfulness and resignation; and therefore death does not appear to me horrible, nor dreadful. I do not fear its approach; I feel the comfortable hope of going to experience, in the bosom of my creator, the reality of those good things, which he has assuredly promised to those who love him in sincerity.' She put every thing in order, and forgot nothing; and whilst shrieks and cries were only to be heard, she saw the approach of death, and observed him with a firm attention, received him as a friend, and falling asleep in his embraces, committed to her creator her spotless soul, her unshaken soul; a soul worthy of possessing the celestial mansions of the elect; the just recompence of her faith, her religion, and her hopes. Were I permitted to descend to particulars, what an example might I leave to posterity! Perhaps there never lived so great a soul, and perhaps none ever carried the practice of virtue to a higher degree. The powers of her mind, and those of the heart, were kept in continual exercise. She little esteemed what are called negative virtues; such as good desires, having only a virtual existence, without ever being produced into action, or productive of any real good. She approved of active, not mere contemplative goodness; and thought that every opportunity of doing good should be sought for, and that it should be unchangeable in its principles; that we should study, to render the soul invulnerable, and to be useful in the world, and such as it would seek after; that little objects should never affect the heart, and that nothing should be done through vanity, or vain-glory, and that considering this world as a place of probation, and a passage to another life, we should never fix ourselves too firmly on it, as a place of residence. To conclude, she was the glory of the state, the support of the church, the delight of society, the ornament of her age, the honour of her sex, the happiness of her family, and will be the perpetual subject of our praise and our regret.'

In short, whatever praise is due to epitomizing, or compiling judiciously, we think justly belongs to this author. When a writer is humble enough to undertake a work, to which his abilities are far superior, he deserves commendation not less for his execution than his modesty.

ART. VI. *The Parliamentary, or Constitutional History of England; being a faithful Account of all the most remarkable Transactions in Parliament, from the earliest Times, to the Restoration of King Charles II. Collected from the Records, the Journals of both Houses, original Manuscripts, scarce Speeches, and Tracts; all compared with the several contemporary Writers, and connected, throughout, with the History of the Times. By several Hands. Vol. XXI. From the Meeting of Cromwell's third Parliament, in September, 1656, to the great Confusions in October, 1659. 8vo. Pr. 6s. Sandby.*

IN a former volume we gave an account of the preceding part of this laborious and useful performance, brought down to the meeting of Cromwell's third parliament, in October, 1659. The scene now opens with some very interesting particulars, not commonly related with so much accuracy by general historians, who have not had the same opportunities of consulting original papers and records, as our authors. We see the protector aiming a mortal thrust at public liberty, and a few patriots, of superior courage and capacity, parrying the blow, and opposing themselves with surprising intrepidity to the attacks of insolent power on expiring freedom. Those very persons who had contributed to Cromwell's elevation, without intending it; who violently declaimed against the encroachment on the constitution made in the late reign, without designing the fall of monarchy; or, who had adopted some republican principles from a notion that the liberties of the people could not otherwise be secured, all saw themselves the dupes of crafty ambition; and that they had exchanged a well-meaning misguided king, for a designing, despotic, hypocritical tyrant, masked under the specious and popular title of protector.

Cromwell found himself under the necessity of calling a parliament; a vigorous prosecution of the Spanish war requiring large supplies. The last had proved refractory, and was therefore dissolved in high resentment. He determined now to use every undue influence to render the new parliament more yielding to his arbitrary views: yet, notwithstanding the most violent measures were exercised during the election, such was the interest of many of his most strenuous opposers in the last sessions, that they were returned to serve in the present. His utmost wish was to ratify, by legislative sanction, his government, which had hitherto no other authority than what was derived from the sword. To effect this, a new and extraordinary method was devised: it was resolved, That no one should be per-
mitted

mitted to sit in the house, before he had produced a certificate of his being approved by the council of state and the protector. On the first day of meeting, it was matter of astonishment to all who were not in the secret, to see the following certificate demanded at the door by persons appointed by Cromwell, and the members stopped who could not produce this illegal passport.

‘ Sept. 17, 1656.

‘ *County of*

‘ *These are to certify, that A. B. is returned, by indenture, one of the knights to serve in this present parliament for the said county, and is approved by his highness's council.*

NATH. TAYLOR,

Clerk of the commonwealth in Chancery.

Our authors observe, that Clarendon is mistaken in affirming, that Cromwell imposed a subscription on the members before they sat, purporting, ‘ that they would act nothing prejudicial to the government, as it was established under a protector ;’ and that the greater part frankly submitted and subscribed : such a test was indeed required in 1654 ; but in the present parliament it was altered for the certificate recited.

Next day Sir George Booth presented a letter to the speaker, which he was ordered to be read, first privately, and afterwards openly, in these words :

“ SIR,

“ We whose names are subscribed, with others, being chosen, and accordingly returned, to serve with you in this parliament ; and, in discharge of our trust, offering to go into the house, were, at the lobby-door, kept back by soldiers : which, lest we should be wanting in our duty to you and to our country, we have thought it expedient to represent unto you, to be communicated to the house, that we may be admitted thereunto.”

In consequence it was ordered, that all the indentures of the returns of members chosen to sit in parliament, be laid before the house. On perusal of the indentures it was found, that divers persons elected were not returned to the house ; and the question being asked the clerk of the commonwealth, ‘ by what order it was not done ?’ he answered, ‘ By order of his highness's council, to deliver tickets to all such persons, and such only, as should be certified to him from the council, as persons by them approved to serve in parliament.’ After some evasion, the clerk produced the order, and it was then resolved, that the council be desired to assign their reasons for excluding certain members,
duly

duly elected. To this the lord commissioner Fiennes was ordered to report, by word of mouth, that the council had acted agreeable to the 21st article of the government of the commonwealth*; upon which it was resolved by a great majority, that the excluded members be referred to make their application to the council for approbation. It was evident to the injured members, from this last vote, what influence the protector had in parliament; but they did not tamely submit to it. They published a noble and spirited remonstrance against this outrage to liberty, filled with the keenest sarcasm on Cromwell, the severest invective against the council, and the most pathetic exhortations to the people, to oppose the violence of oppression, and rouse themselves in vindication of trampled freedom and expiring liberty. Our limits will not suffer us to quote this paper, which breathes the most bold, vigorous, and manly sentiments; or the names of the ninety-two gentlemen who subscribed it. Such, in a word, was the effect it produced, that so great a number of members, ashamed of their companions, left the house, as rendered the following resolution necessary, to save appearances. 'That all persons who had been returned to serve in this parliament, and had been, or might be approved by the council, should give their attendance within seven days.' As to the remonstrants, no notice was taken of them.

The next curious particular that occurs is, the resolution of the house to petition Cromwell to assume the title of king. Framing this *petition and advice*, as it was at last called, employed the attention of the parliament for near a month. At length, the speaker presents him with the parliament's reasons for their petition and advice; upon which, Cromwell desires, 'time to seek God in council, who had been his guide hitherto, to have an answer put into his heart.' On April 3, 1657, he sent a letter to the speaker, desiring the house to appoint a committee to attend him that day at Whitehall. What the express words of his answer to the committee were, we know not; a chasm appears in the journals, nor is it supplied by any contemporary authorities: however, it is probable, from their renewing the debate next day, that Cromwell advanced some reasons against their proposal to make him king; but in such terms as did not imply a refusal. On the 7th, another, and more numerous committee was appointed to attend the lord protector for his further answer; whence it appears that what he had before said, was equivocal. Next day the whole house attended him at Whitehall; and here one of the most farcical disputes be-

* See the instrument at length, Vol. XX. of this work.

tween Cromwell and his parliament ensues, that is recorded in history. The reader cannot fail of being entertained with the arguments adduced on both sides, which take up near three-score pages. They, however, determined nothing; the first of May was appointed for Cromwell's final answer; afterwards the sixth, then the seventh, at eleven in the morning, which was again deferred to five in the afternoon; delays which clearly evince the deep policy of Cromwell, who wanted to sound the opinions of all parties before he declared his own.

On the eighth, a petition was presented to the house in the name of several officers of the army, to the following effect: 'That they had hazarded their lives against monarchy, and were still ready so to do, in defence of the liberties of their country: That having observed, in some men, great endeavours to bring the nation again under their old servitude, by pressing their general to take upon him the title and government of a *king*, in order to destroy him, and weaken the hands of those who were faithful to the public; they therefore humbly desired the house to discountenance all such persons and endeavours, and continue stedfast to the old cause, for the preservation of which they, for their parts, were most ready to lay down their lives.' Cromwell and the house were equally confounded; and this address certainly occasioned his, at last, giving the parliament this final answer.

'I come hither to answer that which was in your last paper to the committee you sent to me, which was in relation to the desires which were offered to me by the house, in what they called their petition.

'I confess, that business hath put the house, the parliament to a great deal of trouble, and spent much time.

'I am very sorry for that! it hath cost me some and some thoughts; and because I have been the unhappy occasion of the expence of so much time, I shall spend little of it now.

'I have, the best I can, revolved the whole business in my thoughts; and I have said so much already in testimony to the whole, that I think I shall not need to repeat any thing that I have said. I think it is a government that, in the aims of it, seeks the settling the nation on a good foot, in relation to civil rights and liberties, which are the rights of the nation: and I hope I shall never be found to be one of them that shall go about to rob the nation of those rights, but to serve them what I can to the attaining of them.

'It is also exceedingly well provided there, for the safety and security of honest men, in that great, natural, and reli-

gious liberty, which is liberty of conscience. These are the great fundamentals; and I must bear my testimony to them, as I have, and shall do still, so long as God lets me live in this world, that the intentions and the things are very honourable and honest, and the product worthy of a parliament: I have only had the unhappiness, both in my conferences with your committees, and in the best thoughts I could take to myself, not to be convinced of the necessity of that thing which hath been so often insisted on by you; to wit, the title of *king*, as in itself so necessary as it seems to be apprehended by you.

‘ And yet I do with all honour and respect to the judgment of a parliament, testify that (*cæteris paribus*) no private judgment is to lie in the balance with the judgment of the parliament; but, in things that respect particular persons, every man that is to give an account to God of his actions, must, in some measure, be able to prove his own work, and to have an approbation in his own conscience, of that that he is to do, or to forbear: and whilst you are granting others their liberties, surely you will not deny me this; it being not only a liberty, but a duty (and such a duty as I cannot, without sinning, forbear) to examine my own heart, and thoughts, and judgment, in every work which I am to set my hand to, or to appear in, or for.

‘ I must confess therefore, that though I do acknowledge all the other, yet I must be a little confident in this, That what with the circumstances that accompany human actions, whether they be circumstances of times or persons; whether circumstances that relate to the whole, or private, or particular circumstances, that compass any person that is to render an account of his own actions; I have truly thought and do still think, that if I should, at the best, do any thing on this account to answer your expectation, at the best, I should do it doubtingly; and certainly, what is so, is not of faith; and whatsoever is not so, whatsoever is not of faith, is sin to him that doth it, whether it be with relation to the substance of the action, about which that consideration is conversant, or whether to circumstances about it, which make all indifferent actions good or evil: I say circumstances; and truly I mean good or evil to him that doth it.

‘ I, lying under this consideration, think it my duty, only I could have wish’d I had done it sooner, for the sake of the house, who hath laid so infinite obligations on me; I wish I had done it sooner, for your sake, and saving time and trouble; and indeed for the committee’s sake, to whom I must acknowledge publicly I have been unreasonably troublesome:

I say

I say I could have wish'd I had given it sooner : but truly, this is my answer, That (although I think the government doth consist of very excellent parts, in all but in that one thing the title, as to me) I should not be an honest man if I should not tell you, that I cannot accept of the government, nor undertake the trouble and charge of it, which I have a little more experimented than every body, what troubles and difficulties do befall men under such trusts, and in such undertakings : I say I am persuaded to return this answer to you, That I cannot undertake the government with the title of *king* : and that is my answer to this great and weighty business.'

We shall only add, upon this subject, the reflections with which our authors close the conference.

' Notwithstanding, say they, Cromwell's refusing the title of *king*, with such seeming earnestness, it appears, upon the evidence of Mr. Whitelocke, and secretary Thurloe, ' That the protector was not only fully satisfied in his own private judgment, that it was fit for him to accept of the parliament's proposal, but also declared to several members his resolution to do so ; and that matters were prepared in order thereto.' A modern historian adds, that a crown was actually made ready ; and it appears by several original letters since publish'd, that not only the protector's own family, but even the sagacious Thurloe was captivated with the glare of his master's expected monarchy.— And altho' all historians agree that Cromwell's fear of the resentment of the principal officers in his army, (who might hope to succeed him as protector in their turn) the solicitations of the republicans, and the suspected fury of the various enthusiasts of the times, did, without doubt, principally contribute to this piece of self-denial ; yet it is observable, from the whole conduct of the committee in the foregoing conference, that their aim was rather to restore the constitution, than to pay a personal compliment to Cromwell : and had he accepted the title of *king*, his own deposal might possibly have made way for the restoration of the Stuart family ; since, if the government must have been vested in a *king*, the nation would probably have chosen rather to submit to the family of their ancient monarchs, than to one who had been so lately their fellow subject ; and the rather, since such a revolution would have deliver'd the kingdom from the terrible consequences of a disputed title between a *king de jure*, and a *king de facto*. — How far the jealousy of such a turn might contribute to Cromwell's determination, is matter of speculation ; but this conjecture will, perhaps, be allowed to have some weight, when it is remember'd that not one of the orators of the committee,

except Mr. Lisle, had any concern in the trial of king Charles the first, and even he did not sign the bloody warrant; and that most of the others had been secluded by the army in December, 1648, before the judicial process was commenced against that unhappy prince. To this may be added, that lord Clarendon, though he says that many of the cavaliers were struck with horror at the proposal for advancing Cromwell to the crown, as tearing up all future hopes of the royal family by the roots, yet he admits that nobody was forwarder in that acclamation than very many of the king's party, who really believed that the making Cromwell king, for the present, was the best expedient for the restoration of his majesty; and that the army and the whole nation would then have been united rather to restore the true, than to admit of a false sovereign, whose hypocrisy and tyranny being now detected and known, would be the more detested.'

It would be needless to specify the variety of particulars contained in this volume, including the public transactions from September, 1656, to October, 1659, the revolutions in parliament, in the army, and the administration; the curious lists of the standing forces by sea and land, of the public debts and revenues; and the entertaining account of all the parties, factions, and fanatical tribes, which, like the Hydra's head, multiplied by opposition, during this period. But what will afford the most rational amusement to a speculative reader is, the detail exhibited of the various schemes of government, devised and proposed by the members of that remnant parliament of Richard Cromwell. Some labour'd to have the supreme authority lodged in an assembly chosen by the people; and a council of state elected by that assembly. In the latter was to be vested the executive power; its power should be of limited duration, and it was to be made accountable to the succeeding council. Others advised, that the people should be represented by representatives constantly sitting, but changing by perpetual rotation. A third set of men gave it as their opinion, that there might to the popular assembly be joined, a select number resembling the *Spartan ephori*, who should have a negative in all things affecting the constitution. A fourth party proposed, that two councils should be chosen by the people, the one to consist of about three hundred, vested with the power only of proposing and debating laws; the other of a thousand, to enjoy the right of finally resolving and passing those laws: every year a third part of each council to go out, and others to be elected in their room. A fifth proposed, that the parliament should appoint twenty of their number, and ten of the principal

principal officers of the army, to consider a form of government to be reported to parliament: if approved, the whole army to be drawn out to declare their assent. Lastly, the general officers of the army only proposed a select standing senate, to be joined to the representative of the people.

Our authors conclude with a query, Whether all, or any of these, forms of republican government, be included in the celebrated Oceana of Sir James Harrington, and a confession of their never having perused that performance. We will venture to inform them, that the ingenious author of the Oceana does adopt some of the above schemes, modelling them, however, to his own purpose; that a late essayist and politician, equal in elegance, strength, and refinement, to any writer of the age, has likewise borrowed from this detail of Ludlow; and that whoever has not a perfect intimacy with both, may justly be thought unacquainted with some of the best writers of his own country.

We shall give an account of the twenty-second volume of this work in our next Number.

ART. VII. *The Modern Part of an Universal History, from the earliest Account of Time. Compiled from Original Writers. By the Authors of the Antient Part. Vol. XVIII.*

THE authors of this learned performance have, at length, finished their stated progress round the eastern, southern, and western coasts of the vast African peninsula. They have made long excursions into the interior countries, as far as they could be assisted by the course of navigable rivers; and we have accompanied them through all their tedious peregrinations, with more satisfaction and profit than we imagined the parched sands of Lybia, the inhospitable deserts of Barca, the ignorance of the coast-negroes, the savage cruelty of the interior inhabitants, or the general characteristics of the country were capable of affording. Like travellers, who have spent the prime of life in search of foreign wonders, we behold, however, with pleasure, our labours drawing to a close, that we may taste, with higher relish, those blessings which nature has so liberally poured upon Europe. We regard ourselves as exiles, loaded with civilities and honours by foreigners, but retaining a hankering after the friendships we formed in our early years, the manners in which we were educated, the sciences, arts, and politics of our own country.

We come now to the remaining northern tract of Africa, known by the general name of Barbary, with which, by reason

of its commerce and situation, we are better acquainted than with any we have described. Our authors begin with the geography and general description of the country and people; the history of the Almoravides, Almohedes, Benimerini, and other dynasties, down to the reigns of the sharifs, and their establishment in Morocco. Before they proceed to the history of the great empire of Morocco, we are obliged with an entertaining account of the kingdom of Tremecen, first reduced under the Ottoman power, by the famous pirate Barbarossa, and now in the hands of the Turkish Algerines.

Under heaven there is not a more despotic and tyrannical government than Morocco, since the sharifs first subdued that empire. Religion, laws, ancient customs, and inbred prejudices, all conspire to render the monarch arbitrary, and the subjects abject. His authority extends not only over their lives and property, but their consciences too, of which, as the representative of Mohammed, he is the spiritual guide. From their infancy the people are tutored in a notion, that perishing in the execution of the imperial orders, entitles them to a place in paradise; but the honour of dying by the hand of their prince, to a superior degree of happiness. After this need we wonder at the instances of cruelty, oppression, and tyranny in the one, or of servility, submission, and misery in the other!

The emperor assumes the titles of, *Most glorious, mighty, and noble emperor of Africa, king of Fez and Morocco, Taphilet, Suz, Dabra, and all the Algarbe, with its territories in Africa, grand sharif or xarif, i. e. vicegerent of the great prophet Mohammed, &c. &c.* He is the framer, judge, interpreter, and, when he pleases, sole executioner of his own laws; heir to the estates and effects of all his subjects, assigning such a pittance to the relations of the deceased as he thinks proper: yet does he allow a shadow of power in spirituals, to the musti, and liberty to the meanest subject of suing him in courts of law; a mere phantom of freedom, which, when claimed, involves inevitably in ruin and destruction the rash plaintiff.

Morocco and Fez compose one empire, situated on the western borders of Barbary, bounded on that side by the ocean, on the east by the river Mulvya, which parts it from Algiers; on the north by the Mediterranean, and on the south by the great Atlas, or rather the river Suz, that divides Morocco from the province of Darhas. Some indeed extend its boundaries southward to the river Niger, which would give it an extent of twelve hundred miles from north to south; whereas the best geographers diminish it to little more than half these dimensions. As
it

It lies from twenty-seven to thirty-six parallels north latitude, the climate is necessarily warm, but healthy, and pleasantly moderated by the cooling sea-breezes from the Atlantic, which fan it on the west, and diversified by a variety of mountains, plains, springs, and rivers. The soil is so excellent, that if cultivated with tolerable skill and industry, it would yield the products of most other parts of the globe; but this is not to be hoped for in a country groaning under the galling yoke of oppression.

All Barbary and Morocco, in particular, has ever been famed for its breed of horses, inferior in size, but excelling all other in elegance of symmetry, fleetness, and peculiar docility. Nor have the inhabitants been less celebrated in all ages, for their dexterity in breaking, training, and performing extraordinary feats of horsemanship. Even in these times they are allowed to be inimitable in this art; particularly the wild Arabs, who live in the mountains, and make this their chief employment. The dromedary and camel, animals peculiarly adapted to the nature of the climate and soil, are no less abundant and excellent in Morocco. Almost incredible stories are related of the journies these creatures will perform, without sustenance of any kind, for several days.

The inhabitants of this country are a mixture, 1st. of *Berebers*, or ancient natives, who live in the utmost poverty in the mountains for the sake of preserving their liberty. 2d. *Arabs*, a roving and wandering people, whose wealth consists in their cattle, horses, and grain. 3d. *Moors*, the descendants of those driven out of Spain. 4th. *Negroes*, or the woolly-headed blacks, made prisoners in war, or driven by intestine commotion from the western coast (these are omitted by our authors.) 5th. *Jews*, the most fraudulent people under the sun, who, however, have engrossed the chief trade, and are, in fact, the brokers, coiners, and bankers of the realm; and 6thly, the renegados, or those apostates from christianity, who rise to the highest preferments of the state, by that peculiar rancour and animosity they express against the subjects of European kingdoms, their own immediate countrymen in particular, and all Christians in general. To these we may add the class of slaves, treated with a severity and rigour here unknown, even in the piratical states of Tunis, Algiers, and Tripoli. All are the property of the emperor, employed without ceasing in the hardest and meanest occupations, fed with a pound cake of coarse barley-meal, soaked in oil, which they often cram greedily with one hand down their throats, while the other is busied in some grievous drudgery, to avoid the discipline of the knotted whip. Their lodg-

ing at night is a subterraneous dungeon, five fathoms deep, into which they descend by a rope-ladder, afterwards drawn up, and the mouth of the prison fastened with an iron grate. They are dressed in a kind of uniform, consisting of a long coarse woollen coat, with a hood, serving for cap, shirt, coat, and breeches. To crown their misery, these ill-fated persons are harnessed in carts with mules and asses, and more unmercifully lashed than their brute companions, for every the least fault or intermission from labour, though owing, perhaps, to fatigue and languor, from the severity of business, hunger, and thirst. But the cruelties exercised over these unfortunate wretches exceed all power of belief or description.

The following description of the city of Morocco will afford our readers an agreeable relief from the horrid scenes we have been just describing :

‘ Morocco, by its pleasant situation, and the number and variety of its noble edifices, may be justly esteemed the richest and most considerable city in all Africa, though much sunk from its pristine grandeur, both with respect to the number of its houses and inhabitants, and the magnificence of its palaces and other public structures. It is conveniently seated between two rivers, the Nephtis and the Agmed, and upon that of the Tensift, all spoken of before, on a spacious plain, reckoned above fifty miles in length, about sixteen north of mount Atlas, one hundred and seventy from the Atlantic ocean, and near the same spot where Ptolemy places the ancient Boccanum Hemerum, if not on the ruins of it. The city is encompassed with very high stone walls, the cement of which resists the force of the pick-axe, and will even strike fire; insomuch that, though it hath undergone such frequent and obstinate sieges, and been so often plundered and damaged within and without, there is not the least token of a breach to be seen in them. They are likewise flanked with strong and lofty towers, with bastions and other bulwarks, and surrounded with a wide and deep ditch. The gates are still twenty-four in number, and retain some tokens of their pristine strength and beauty, tho’ not of their use; and the houses are dwindled from one hundred thousand to less than one third of that number, the rest lying now waste, or turned into gardens, orchards, and corn-fields, and many of the noble structures that adorned it, either destroyed or gone to ruin. However, there remain in the part which is inhabited many stately buildings, particularly the royal palace, three magnificent mosques, some few baths and hospitals, together with some ancient inscriptions in Arabic, which seem to indicate the name of the founder,

founder, in words to this effect : *Under the reign of Jausiph ben Texifn, &c.*

‘ The Al Cassava, or Michowart, within whose cincture is the imperial palace, is a large fortress, on the south side of the city, and capable of containing above four thousand houses. The walls that surround it are high and strong, flanked with lofty towers, bastions, and other works, and surrounded with a good ditch. It hath only two gates, one on the south, facing the adjacent country, and the other on the north, leading to the city ; both of them very grand, and guarded by a company of soldiers, to prevent any christian slaves going out without their keepers. This gate faces a strait handsome street ; at the end, and in full sight of which, in the center of a spacious court, stands the magnificent mosque built by Abdalmunen, king of the Almohedes ; but which, they tell us, being too low for its bulk, was raised fifty cubits higher by his grandson Al Manzor, who also built the great tower of it, which, for height and beauty, is only to be equalled by those of Rabat, in the kingdom of Tremecen, and of Seville, in Spain, which were the works of the same architect. This noble building was moreover embellished with carvings of jasper, marble, and other costly stone, which, together with the rich stately gates of the cathedral of Seville, covered with bass-relievo work in brass, and bolts of the same metal, that conqueror caused to be brought from Spain, by way of trophies, to enrich this new fabric. On the top of the tower above-mentioned, were fixed through an iron spike four large balls of copper, plated so thick with gold, that they were supposed to be all of that rich metal. These were of different sizes, the largest capable of containing eight, the second four, the third two, and the uppermost one, sacks of wheat, all the four together weighing 700 pounds. Their origin and many other particulars relating to them, the reader may see in the margin ; they being either so little credited or minded by the late Muley Ishmael, that he made no scruple to take them down, and convey them into his treasury.

‘ Under this large mosque is a deep vault, of the same length and breadth with the building, in which is reposed an immense quantity of corn, belonging to the emperors ; but it was at first designed for a capacious cistern, to receive the rain water which fell upon the leaden covering, and was conveyed into it by pipes of lead. The battlements of the tower are of such an uncommon height, and offer to the view such a vast prospect round, as seldom fails of striking the beholder with such dizziness, from which one cannot easily recover one’s self ; whilst the tallest men below

appear like so many little children : and from thence upwards arises a spire of about seventy feet high, on the top of which were fixed the four (Leo says only three) balls above-mentioned. The royal apartments, the seraglios for the sharif's wives and concubines, the state chambers, halls of audience, and the galleries leading from one to the other, are no less splendid and lofty ; pillars, moldings, cieling, and other ornaments, all shining with gold, and the furniture answerable.

‘ The gardens within, if not so regularly designed and variegated, do, nevertheless, shew something of an uncommon magnificence ; being adorned with terrasses, fountains, spacious fish-ponds, shady pavilions, &c. great variety of fruit and other trees, fragrant verdures, and every thing that is curious and delightful. But, in the midst of all this splendor, one sees other noble buildings, such as palaces, colleges, baths, hospitals, halls, and other ancient edifices, with all the marks of their former splendor, running or run to decay. About four hundred aqueducts, some broken down, others tottering, and all of them shamefully neglected. The houses of the rich and noble are indeed built of stone, but much out of repair, and, which hath still a worse appearance, stand at such a distance from each other, as hardly to form one contiguous street in any part of the city ; whilst the chasms between are filled up either with such mud houses as all the meaner sort are forced to take up with, with kitchen gardens and orchards, or with old ruins and houses uninhabited and ready to tumble down. This is the present state of that once opulent metropolis, which, in Leo's, and even Grammar's time, contained no less than forty-five wide spacious streets, intersecting each other at right angles from end to end, all finely built, and well inhabited, as well as the prodigious number of lanes that ran parallel and collateral to them. All which doleful dilapidations are, in part, owing to the frequent wars it hath been exposed to, the change of sovereigns it hath gone through, but most of all to the tyrannic government it hath groaned under ever since the sharifs made themselves masters of it.

‘ The gardens, which stand at the farther end of the castle towards the country, and the park almost contiguous to them, shewed both some eminent tokens of their former elegance and costliness, when Mouquet was there, the former of which, besides a prodigious variety of fruit and other trees, shrubs, flowers, &c. was adorned with a noble square spot, railed in with a marble balustrade, in the center of which stood a column that supported a lion, both of the same stone. This last threw a fine stream of water out of his mouth into a large basin within
the

the rails, on the four corners of which stood four leopards, curiously carved, likewise of white marble, beautifully spotted with round spots of a green colour, and natural to the stone. In the other were to be seen a great variety of wild beasts, such as lions, tygers, leopards, elephants, gyraphos, deer, &c. Our author adds, that he saw the lions kept in a large ruined building, quite uncovered, and to which one ascended by a flight of steps.

‘At a small distance from the palace above-mentioned stands the quarter of the Jews, inclosed within its own walls, and with only one gate, which is guarded by the Moors. Mouquet tells us, that, in his time, there were at least four thousand of them that lived within that precinct, and paid a certain tribute to the government. The foreign agents, and even ambassadors, chuse to live in that place, rather than in any part of the city. As for the rest of the christian merchants, they commonly live near the custom-house, which stands about three miles distant from the palace. The Jews have always been highly taxed for their liberty of religion and trading; in spite of which there are many of them very rich, as they are the only agents, brokers, money-changers, and minters in the empire; and there is no doubt but the number of them is greatly increased since that author wrote. But it is, however, their constant policy, in all these despotic governments, to make the meanest appearance in their dress, houses, &c. to avoid being still more oppressed; and well may they do so, when the natural subjects are obliged to do the same, for fear of becoming a prey to those rapacious monarchs, or their ministers. Hence the miserable show that the houses of the middling and common people make, in all the parts of the city that are still inhabited. As for those of the alcaides, nobles, military officers, and courtiers, they are lofty, strong, well built, and surrounded with stout walls, and sit on the top, with a turret in the middle, where they commonly spend the evening in fresco, after the African manner. The river Tensift runs through the city, and hath a handsome bridge over it; on its banks are a variety of mills turned by it, for divers purposes, and from it is conveyed a sufficient quantity of water into all the houses, gardens, &c. to serve their necessities. Thus much may suffice to give our readers such an idea of this famed metropolis, both in its flourishing and declined state, as may enable them to guess at the rest.’

Fez, once the capital of a kingdom of that name, is the next city in the empire in dignity, and perhaps the first in wealth, and several circumstances of beauty. The immense riches conveyed
hither

hither by the Moors expelled out of Spain, contributed to restore its ancient beauty, and render it by far the most populous, large and extensive city of Africa, being upwards of twelve miles in circumference, or fourteen, according to writers who include the old and new cities within their description. It is besides the mart of commerce, and great school of the Mahomedan law. Old Fez, which alone merits any regard, stands on the declivity of two hills, separated by a beautiful valley, and the whole surrounded by a strong stone wall, flanked with towers. The houses are square, terraced on the tops, and after the manner of building in Barbary, without windows to the street. Those of the rich and great, as well as colleges, hospitals, mosques, cloisters, baths, and all public edifices, have spacious courts, adorned within with sumptuous galleries, fountains, basins of fine marble, and fish ponds, all shaded with lime and orange trees loaded with fruit, almost the whole year. Most of the houses have towers, in which the women sit to enjoy the cool evening breeze, and delightful prospect of the city and country. The river Fez runs through the city, plentifully supplying it with water, turning above four hundred mills of different kinds, and adorned with two hundred and fifty stone bridges, some exceeding beautiful and noble. Fez contains five hundred mosques, out of which number fifty may be called truly magnificent. One, in particular, called the *Caruvin*, is affirmed to be a mile and a half in circumference, including the college and cloister. It hath thirty stately gates, with a roof one hundred and fifty cubits high. The minoret, or tower, supported by thirty elegant pillars, is of a stupendous height. Of this fabric the roof is divided into seventeen arches, and the whole supported by fifteen hundred pillars of white marble, highly polished. Each arch is adorned with a lamp of prodigious size, continually burning; that, in particular, hanging over the *alsaki's* desk, is of enormous bulk and fine workmanship, surrounded like the sun by its planets, with one hundred and fifty smaller lamps, beautifully cast in brass.

It would be endless to enumerate and describe the public buildings; what we have said may excite the reader's curiosity to peruse the volume, where he will find ample satisfaction.

After largely describing the civil and military history of Morocco, our authors proceed to a description of the laws, regulations, manners, government, trade, and other particulars regarding the piratical states of Tunis, Tripoli, and Algiers. Here the variety of entertaining matter renders it difficult for us to select, and impossible to abridge. We must however observe, that the learned writers have paid but little attention to the elegancies

gancies of stile in this volume; and perhaps too little to the political interests of European kingdoms, with respect to the piratical states, whose very existence is a reproach to the narrow politics of Christendom.

ART. VIII. *An Additional Dialogue of the Dead, between Pericles and Aristides. Being a Sequel to the Dialogue between Pericles and Cosmo.* 8vo. Pr. 1s. Davis and Reymers.

THE masterly dialogues, of which we gave an account in our last Number, could not have been continued with more propriety, than by a writer whose works have been purchased with astonishing avidity, for their elegance of diction and sprightliness of sentiment. When such a triumvirate club their wits for the public entertainment, their endeavours cannot fail of meeting with a favourable reception. Plato's ease, and engaging manner, has not been more happily imitated than by our author. So inveigling, so shrewd and sarcastic, is Aristides, that you would take him for the *shade* of Socrates, as drawn by the most amiable of the Greek philosophers; yet apply the test of criticism, and his *subtlety* will be found to consist in *quibble*, his *reasoning* in *plausibility*, and his arguments employed *de lana caprina*, as the poet expresses it, rather to display his refinement, than convey information. What we mentioned as a blemish in the *Dialogues of the Dead*, the want of character, and those dramatical distinctions, which alone impart beauty and strength to the method of dialogue, has been attended to by our author. Pericles and Aristides, are not only diversified in thought and expression, but a third person is seen peeping behind the scene; namely, the all-sufficient and self-approving estimator, who may probably, in his own person, renew the conversation in a third dialogue, by the same well-bred stratagem used by Aristides, of listening at the key-hole. To speak our sentiments without disguise, whatever merit we are ready to allow our author as a writer, to us he appears more a caviller than a philosopher in this performance.

In the discourse between Pericles and Cosmo, the author of the *Dialogues of the Dead* has hardly advanced a sentiment that can be called the writer's; so equal has he drawn their characters, that it is difficult to say which is his favourite, following in this the two great patterns of dialogue-writing, Plato, and his admirer Cicero. He makes Pericles confess, that by weakening the court of the Areopagus, he tore up that anchor which Solon had fixed, to keep his republic steadfast and firm against the
storms

forms of popular faction ; and that, notwithstanding the integrity which both he and Cosmo preserved in their public conduct, and the great virtues they exerted, their place in elysium is justly below that of those who have governed republics, or *limited monarchies*, not merely with a concern for their present advantage, but with a prudent regard to that balance of power on which their permanent happiness depends. Pray is this 'leaving the matter short,' as our author, in the person of Aristides, affirms? Can any political maxim be more decisive and undeniable? We will at least venture to set it in opposition to the following, with which the reverend author makes Aristides conclude the argument. 'In a great, populous, civilized, and powerful kingdom, the harangues of an orator to any surrounding audience of the people, can no more affect the general welfare, than the buzzing of an eloquent bee can affect a province, when he leads out the murmuring hive on the mountains of Hybla or Hymettus.'—'As it would be impossible to seduce by eloquence, so it would be no less impracticable to corrupt, by bribes, this whole body of men, to the desertion of their own interest. A few, nay indeed a number, might be thus corrupted; but this would never produce an united voice; for the remaining part, and that much the largest, would clamour, and thus nothing but discord could arise. To silence so many millions, by repeated bribes, would require ten times the wealth, and more than ever man, nay, more than ever nation, possessed.' Here we see an officious direct application of a reflection, which the former author proposed as general, and an obvious truth, strained into a complimentary dialogue to *power*, equally pernicious and deceptive in the tendency. What shall our author say to great, powerful, and civilized people, who delegate their rights to a certain number of representatives, chosen by themselves! To a people who, void of every idea regarding public virtue, barter their rights for the mean gratuity given by a candidate for a seat in the senate! Who have absolutely reduced to system this species of corruption, whereby the price of every corporation is exactly ascertained! Who entrust the liberties of the nation to representatives, who have wasted their substance in soothing, cajoling, corrupting and destroying the morals of their constituents? Who are sensible that the broken fortunes of these representatives must be repaired by methods inconsistent with freedom; that they are assembled in one house under the immediate eye of a court, rich in lucrative posts and preferments, and liberal in pensions, out of the public money? What, shall eloquence, shall influence, and power of bribes, avail nothing here? Wherein consists the difference between such a body of men, invested with the rights of the

whole people, and a crowd of Athenian populace, listening to the insinuating adulation, and feeling the generous liberality of a Pericles? Consult history, consult your own mind, and determine, whether in a government constituted like the limited monarchy of Aristides, there can ever be a dependance on the integrity of the people, where luxury and interest contribute in rendering corrupt, those on whom they have devolved their rights, and constituted their representatives. Upon the whole, we are of opinion, our author never applied his fine talents to a worse purpose than the present, as *the additional Dialogue* serves only to evince, that even learning, understanding, independency, and, perhaps, a virtuous disposition, united, are not proofs against the suggestions of ambition, or capable to restrain the possessor from servile adulation to power, and narrow jealousies of rival merit.

ART. IX. *Observations relating to the Coin of Great Britain; consisting partly of Extracts from Mr. Locke's Treatise concerning Money, but chiefly of such Additions thereto, as are thought to be very necessary at this Juncture; not only for remedying the present great Scarcity of Silver, but for putting a Stop to those Losses which this Nation suffers by the over-valuing of Gold-Money, and by prohibiting both the Melting and Exporting of British Coin. Whereunto is annexed Sir William Petty's Quantulumcumque concerning Money; reprinted from an Edition that was printed for private Use in the Year 1695; and corrected by a Manuscript Copy of very good Authority. By J. Massie. 4to. Pr. 1s. Owen.*

AS there is no subject of more utility, or any capital article of commerce less generally understood, than gold or silver, the public is obliged to our author for the application he has bestowed on this and other points of public commerce. We shall endeavour to convey a just idea of his observations to the reader; subjoining such remarks as seem to us necessary to supply deficiencies, or correct errors into which he may have fallen. He builds upon reflections extracted from Mr. Locke, on the consequences of increasing the value of money, which that great philosopher has incontestably proved cannot be raised above its intrinsic value, or made to pass current for more than the gold or silver it contains, is worth in bullion; at least with foreign nations. He has even made this proposition obvious to us with respect to domestic trade, tho' Mr. Massie is of a different opinion, and therefore proceeds to a demonstration of it upon much the same principles, but in a different method. He labours to prove, that money, if raised above its intrinsic value, cannot be kept at increased rates of valuation, so that

that a lesser quantity of gold or silver shall purchase a greater quantity of any domestic commodity than before ; since this *nominal* increase will proportionably raise the price of labour, manufacture, and commodities of every kind. First, All foreign commodities imported, would rise just in the proportion our money sunk in intrinsic value. Secondly, These must be sold by our merchants at a proportioned advanced price. Thirdly, Tradesmen must pass them to the consumers in just the same proportion. Fourthly, The landholders, who are the chief consumers, purchasing these commodities at an increased price, would find it necessary, and highly equitable to raise their rents. Fifthly, Of consequence the farmers must sell their corn, cattle, cheese, butter, wool, &c. so much dearer, as their rents are increased. Sixthly, Labourers and mechanics finding the necessities of life raised, must consequently increase the price of their labour ; and thus all manufactures in general become dearer in proportion as money is raised above its intrinsic standard.

However logically this *sortes* may be formed, it is certainly contrary to experience. The best political writers of France have observed, that the frequent operations of the king to augment the numerary value of the coin did not produce a proportionable increase of the price of commodities. Lewis XIV. raised the value of money three sevenths, but for many years the prices increased only one. A fine writer of that country remarks, that corn in France is sold for the same number of livres it was in 1683, tho' silver was then at thirty livres the mark, and is now at fifty or more : indeed, from these and other facts we may conclude, that where money is gradually and judiciously raised, it will little, if at all, affect the prices of commodities. By the circulation of a greater number of guineas and shillings, domestic trade is enlivened and encouraged ; and the new coin will purchase whatever could be procured by the old. If a labourer raises his price, the master expects an increase of labour, to which the artizan cheerfully submits, as he now sees himself in possession of a greater number of guineas and shillings. This, however, is only for a time ; and we have advanced these facts only to shew, that the increased price of manufactures does not so immediately follow an augmentation of the coin, as our author supposes, tho' in the end his conclusions may prove just.

Mr. Maffie, after shewing that silver is the measure of commerce in this country, proceeds to the consequences which he apprehends would attend an alteration in the value of our silver coin, the confusion it would introduce in every kind of domestic traffic,

traffic, by leaving no established rule of valuation. Here he enters upon some refined and very just criticism on Mr. Locke's treatise upon this subject; comparing various passages with each other, and shewing their contradiction.

The inconveniencies attending the alteration in the value of silver money, would by no means follow that of gold coin; as the rents of lands or houses, the prices of commodities and labour are not valued by gold coin. It is therefore, he thinks, a mistake to propose remedying the present scarcity of silver by altering its value; as this would be attended with consequences worse than the disease, an universal confusion in domestic traffic. The proper remedy, says he, is reducing the current rate of guineas and other gold coins which have long passed for more shillings and pence than the gold they contain is intrinsically worth in bullion. 'The gold brought here in exchange for silver that hath been carried abroad, neither will purchase a like quantity of silver from other nations, nor pass for so much in payment with them, as the silver-money carried abroad would have passed, if it had remained in this kingdom; and as very great quantities of gold are every year exported from hence to East-India, Holland, or other countries for trade; as also for public ministers, noblemen, gentlemen, &c. residing or travelling abroad; besides what is exported for war: this loss by over-valuing gold-money must have been very great in twenty years.' But soon after he runs into confusion, by acknowledging that the same happens to silver coin; for, says he, no silversmith will accept of an equal weight of impressed coin, for bullion. 'Every dealer in silver bullion knows very well, that one ounce or any other quantity of standard silver in British coin, will not purchase an equal quantity of standard silver in bullion; than which there cannot be a more plain and certain proof, that the stamp on our silver money debases the value of the silver therein contained.' These assertions, seemingly so opposite, will probably perplex a reader of ordinary penetration, however clear proofs they may seem to our author, that it would be hazardous to attempt the augmentation of the value of silver, otherwise than by the reduction of the value of gold coin.

To have viewed the subject in all its extent, Mr. Massie ought to have considered the effects to a nation of passive commerce, that always drains it of its money, and cannot be better remedied than by preserving an exact and true proportion between gold and silver. He ought likewise to have considered, how, abstracting from the influence of a partial state of commerce, a mere variation from the just proportion to be ob-

served between gold and silver, with respect to other nations will occasion great losses and inconveniencies to a trading kingdom; a consideration of great consequence in the reduction of gold coin. Suppose, for instance, a money system prevail in the kingdom, that shall raise the silver money above its just value, making fourteen ounces equal to an ounce of gold. While the proportion stood thus, the silver money would not only continue in the kingdom, but receive great increase: on the contrary, the gold would be exported in the same proportion, and the nation would lose upon it $7\frac{1}{7}$ per cent. Again, let us imagine the gold raised above its real value, and that, instead of the common proportion of 1 to 15, an ounce of gold be made equivalent to sixteen ounces of silver. By such an alteration gold would be raised $6\frac{2}{3}$ per cent. above its value; and silver reduced just in proportion: it is evident therefore, that this increase of the current price of gold would naturally cause the silver to be exported; and as gold would be imported in its stead and increase greatly, the nation must lose $6\frac{2}{3}$ per cent in all the silver thus exported. To apply this observation to our author, would it not be a necessary consequence of remedying the scarcity of silver by reducing the value of gold, that the gold would be exported in a greater quantity, and the nation just so much losers as it is reduced in value; which, considering the extensiveness of the British trade, and the quantity of specie sent abroad, would be attended with the most destructive consequences? These reflections we refer to Mr. Massie's further consideration; observing to our readers, that writers are not in these times to be rated altogether according to the degree of intrinsic merit they possess, but by the purity of their intention, their well meaning, and labour for the public good.

ART. X. *Philosophical Transactions, giving some Account of the present Undertakings, Studies, and Labours, of the Ingenious, in many considerable Parts of the World. Vol. LI. Part I. For the Year 1759. 4to. Pr. 12s. Davis and Reymers.*

CUSTOM seems, of late years, to have established it as a rule of this learned society, that a couple of annual volumes be published, of certain dimensions, and at stated periods, no matter what their contents. It can certainly be no inducement to men of talent to commence an intercourse with a select body, instituted for the sole purpose of promoting science, that their labours shall be indiscriminately blended with the impertinence of every pretender, ambitious of exposing himself in print; and bound up in a volume, which wags purchase as a kalender

kalender of the yearly dunces, to fill an empty corner in a study. We are fully of opinion, that this undistinguishing compliment paid to the claims of real and feigned merit, has robbed the society of many useful correspondents, who set too just a value on their own productions to insert them in a chaos of literature, consigned to oblivion. Is it fitting that every officious pedant, whose sole merit is that he is communicative, should file on a shelf, class in an index, be stitched in the same calves skin, or mentioned by foreigners in the same breath with Newton, Halley, Brounker, Cotes, Gregory, and other names, that reflect light on their obscurity, just as the microscope throws rays on certain reptiles, only to render them more contemptible. What must be the opinion of that reader, who compares the *transactions* of a century since, with the solemn trifles now published under the specious title of *philosophical*, but that genius is in the wane, or the stores of science exhausted: and that the censors of the society want courage to reject, or judgment to select what is, or is not fit for the public inspection. But what these gentlemen have, for some reasons best known to themselves, neglected, we shall endeavour to supply to our readers, by pointing out those papers only which merit any sort of regard, and omitting an infinity of others, which we should buy dear did we purchase them by the weight. Such papers as deserve notice, we shall divide into miscellaneous and mathematical, deferring the latter to our next Number, as examining them would require more leisure and pains than the present opportunity will allow.

In the class of miscellaneous papers, the first that occurs is an account of some antiquities found in Cornwall, by Mr. Borlase; in which that reverend gentleman has displayed a considerable share of erudition, in describing a Roman patera, dug up near St. Michael's mount, with the following inscription in Greek and Roman characters on the bottom: *Livius modestus driuli* (or, *Douili*, for *Duili*) *filius deo Marti*. This paper we mention intirely for the sake of the author's reflection, with which he closes his letter: 'that the inscription is the first discovered in Cornwall of such high antiquity; and will satisfy the learned; that the Romans had penetrated into the westernmost parts of Cornwall before the empire became christian: that the sacrificial vessels, the pateræ, and præfericulum, are of tin, the natural product of Cornwall: the vase, the weights, the millstone, are also of Cornish granite: and by the walls, the religious utensils, the weights, the quantity of shoes, bones, horns, vases, urn, and ashes, this fort appears to have been that of a fixed garrison, not a temporary occasional fortification:

tion : that by the shape of this fort, and the antiquities discovered in it, it was a Roman fort.'

Next we have a description and plate of a very ingenious silk reel, invented by Mr. Pullein, which we doubt not will prove beneficial to this manufactory, and assisting to the much wished for design of raising silk in our American colonies. Every artist in this way is sensible of the difficulty of winding the silk off the cocoons, on account of the *vitrage*, or natural gum that smears the fine threads, and makes them adhere with a force, which their strength is not sufficient to overcome. It is this inconvenience that Mr. Pullein proposes to remove ; but the most accurate description of the instrument he has contrived, will be scarce intelligible without a plate.

In number VIII, we find some curious experiments concerning the encaustic painting of the ancients, by Mr. Josiah Colebrooke. After a variety of unsuccessful trials our author took putty, what the bricklayers call fine stuff, or slacked lime dissolved, while warm, in water : ' to this (says he) I added a small quantity of burnt alabaster, to make it dry : this it soon did in the open air ; but before I put on any colours, I dried it gently by the fire, lest the colours should run. When it was painted, I warmed it gradually by the fire (to prevent the ground from cracking) till it was very hot. I then took white wax three parts, white resin one part, melted them in an earthen pipkin, and with a brush spread them all over the painted board, and kept it close to the fire in a perpendicular situation, that what wax and resin the plaister would not absorb might drop off. When it was cold, I found the colours were not altered, either from the heat of the fire, or passing the brush over them. I then rubbed it with a soft linen cloth, and thereby procured a kind of gloss, which I afterwards increased by rubbing it with an hard brush ; which was so far from scratching or leaving any marks on the picture, that it became more smooth and polished by it.'

Conversing with Dr. Kidby, our author was informed by that gentleman of a passage in Vitruvius, which he translates thus : ' But if any one is more wary, and would have the polishing [painting] with vermilion hold its colour, when the wall is printed and dry, let him take Carthaginian [Barbary] wax, melted with a little oil, and rub it on the wall with an hair pencil ; and afterwards let him put live coals into an iron vessel (chafing-dish) and hold it close to the wax, when the wall, by being heated, begins to sweat ; then let it be made smooth : afterwards let him rub it with a candle and clean linen rags, in the

the same manner as they do the naked marble statues. This the Greek call *ναυσις*. The coat of Carthaginian wax (thus put on) is so strong, that it neither suffers the moon by night, nor the sun-beams by day, to destroy the colour."

Satisfied from this passage, that the manner of using the wax in the above experiment was right, 'I was now (says he) to find if the wax-varnish, thus burnt into the picture, would bear washing: but here I was a little disappointed; for rubbing one corner with a wet linen cloth, some of the colour came off; but washing with a soft hair-pencil dipped in water, and letting it dry without wiping, the colours stood very well.

' A board painted, as in the above experiment, was hung in the most smoaky part of a chimney for a day, and exposed to the open air in a very foggy night. In the morning the board was seemingly wet through, and the water ran off the picture. This was suffered to dry without wiping; and the picture had not suffered at all from the smoke or the dew, either in the ground or the colours: but when dry, by rubbing it, first with a soft cloth, and afterwards with a brush, it recovered its former gloss.

' Suspecting that some tallow might have been mixed with the white wax I had used, which might cause the colours to come off on being rubbed with a wet cloth, I took yellow wax which had been melted from the honeycomb in a private family, and consequently not at all adulterated; to three parts of this I added one part resin, and melted them together.

' *Experiment IX.* Spanish white, mixed with fish glew, was put for a ground on a board, and painted with water-colours only. The board was made warm; and then the wax and resin were put on with a brush, and kept close to the fire till the picture had imbibed all the varnish, and looked dry. When it was cold, I rubbed it first with a linen cloth, and then polished it with an hard brush.

' In these experiments I found great difficulties with regard to colours; many water-colours being made from the juices of plants, have some degree of an acid in them; and these, when painted on an alkaline ground, as chalk, whitening, *cimolia*, and plaister, are, totally changed their colours, and from green became brown; which contributed much to make the experiments tedious. I would therefore advise the use of mineral or metallic colours for this sort of painting, as most likely to preserve their colour: for although I neutralized Spanish white, by fermenting with vinegar, and afterwards washed it very well with water, it did not succeed to my wish.

‘ These experiments, and this passage from Vitruvius, will in some measure explain the obscurity of part of that passage in Pliny which Dr. Parsons, in his learned comment on the encaustic painting with wax, seems to despair of.

‘ *Ceres pingere* was one species of encaustic painting. *Ενκαυστον, inustum*, may be translated, forced in by the means of fire, burnt in: for whatever is forced in by the help of fire can be rendered into Latin by no other significant word, that I know of, but *inustum*. If this is allowed me, and I think I have the authority of Vitruvius (a writer in the Augustan age) for it, who seems to have wrote from his own knowledge, and not like Pliny, who copied from others much more than he knew himself, the difficulty with regard to this kind of painting is solved, and the encaustic with burnt wax recovered to the public.

‘ What he means by the next kind he mentions, *in ebore cestro id est viriculo*, I will not attempt to explain at present.

‘ The ship painting is more easily accounted for: the practice being, in part, continued to this time; and is what is corruptly called breaming, for brenning or burning. This is done by reeds set on fire, and held under the side of a ship till it is quite hot; then resin, tallow, tar, and brimstone, melted together, and put on with an hair-brush while the planks remain hot, make such a kind of paint as Pliny describes; which, he says, *nec sole, nec sale, ventisque corrumpitur*, as they were ignorant of the use of oil painting, they mixed that colour with the wax, &c. which they intended for each particular part of the ship, and put it in the manner above described.

‘ In the pictures painted for these experiments, and now laid before your lordship and the society, I hope neither the design of the landscape, nor the execution of it, will be so much taken into consideration as the varnish (which was the thing wanted in this inquiry): and I think that will evince, that the encaustic painting with burnt wax is fully restored by these experiments; and though not a new invention, yet having been lost for so many ages, and now applied further, and to other purposes than it was by Vitruvius (who confined it to vermilion only) may almost amount to a new discovery, the use of it may be a means of preserving many curious drawings to posterity: for this kind of painting may be on paper, cloth, or any other substance that will admit a ground to be laid on it. The process is very simple, and is not attended with the disagreeable smell unavoidable in oil painting, nor with some inconveniences inseparable from that art; and as there is no substance we know, more durable than wax, it hath the greatest probability of being lasting.’

We

We shall only add to these experiments, that a bird drawn by Mr. George Edwards, on paper prepared with a ground of whitening and fish glew, painted with water colours, and then done over with wax, &c. burnt in, were presented on the 5th of April to the society. The picture might be rolled up like common paper, without cracking the varnish; but whether after all, either this, or the method proposed by count Caylus, be the true encaustic painting of the ancients, is to us a matter of doubt.

Number XII, contains a thermometrical account of the weather, kept for three years in Maryland, by Mr. Richard Brooke. Some of that gentleman's observations on the epidemical distempers consequent on the changes of the air well deserve the medical reader's perusal.

Some experiments made by Mr. Delaval of Pembroke-Hall, Cambridge, seem to prove, that bodies are changed from conductors of the electrical fluid, to resisters or non-conductors, by divesting them of their sulphureous principles. The hints here proposed will be deemed worthy of regard by gentlemen who cultivate this curious branch of natural philosophy.

From certain observations made by Mr. Hubner, professor of history in the university of Copenhagen, related in number XXI, he thinks it highly probable, that the *Terra Tripolitana* is nothing more than wood, wholly petrified, and afterwards calcined by the subterraneous fire; but a subsequent letter from Mr. Mendes da Costa refutes Mr. Hubner's conjectures, with respect to their universality, and renders it highly probable, that the instances he mentions evince only a partial and local production of this earth, by concurring circumstances of wood and earth buried together in the bowels of a volcano.

The following extracts of letters from signor Venali, relating to certain antiquities lately discovered in Italy, will be acceptable to the curious.

In an inscription, which I found, while the front of the church of St. John Lateran was erecting, and which is now in the gardens of cardinal Corsini, without the Porta Aurelia (or St. Pancrazio) mention is made of the *equites singulares*, as guards of the persons of the emperors.

‘ Herculi Inviſto Sacrum
Genio Num. Eq. Sing.
Augg. N. N. Pro Salute
Imp. Cefar. L. Septimii
Severi, et M. Aurelii An
tonini - - - -

Et Juliae Aug. Matri
Castrorum. Aaug.

- - - - - Do

mus divinae. Trib.

Occo. Valente, et Octavio

Pisoni. et. Ti. Exerc. Fl.

Titiano. et Aurel. Lupo

C. Julius Secundus

. rexit. Ere. suo. Deo. Do. D

Dedit. Idibus. Sept.

Severo III. et Antonino Au

g g N N. Cos.

‘ As Commodus was not ashamed to enter the lists in the amphitheatre, as a gladiator (as appears by an inscription, which I have lately published) I do not question, but that he might have a further ambition to be ranked among the *equites singulares* also.

‘ Without the gate of Sto Paolo, in the way to Ostia, about eight miles from Rome, there has been discovered, within these few days, a magnificent sepulchre of very large dimensions, and of a round figure. In the middle of it was a sepulchral urn covered all over with sculpture in no inelegant taste. Among the rubbish, on the outside, they met with this inscription in large capitals,

C. TUCCIUS. L. F. TRO. DVVOMVR.
ACTIA. UXOR.

‘ Not far from this sepulchre, there are now found *ædis rusticae*, peasants houses, adorned with rich marbles in the walls, and with statues.’

‘ During my summer recess at Viterbo, as I was tracing out the remains of antiquity in the adjacent country, I dropt, by mere accident, upon the ruins of Ferentum, a town of Etruria, different from that of the same name in Latium, near Mons Albanus. Here, besides the walls of the city, consisting of wrought square stone, I had the satisfaction of finding a temple built of the same materials, of neat workmanship, and a very elegant stile of architecture: but what surprised me more was a theatre almost perfect, not only in the circular part of it, but also in that, which was taken up by the scene or stage. It had its porticos intire on the outside, and likewise three entrances, answering to the *valvæ regiae*, and the *hospitalia*, described by Vitruvius: so that nothing was wanting to render it complete, but the *orchestra* and *pulpitum*. These remains are accessible

cessible to all the world; yet no one hitherto has delineated or published them. We have several valuable monuments in Latium, Sabina, Etruria, Campania, and Calabria, which contain subjects of the highest erudition, but yet are unknown to, and disregarded by, learned men; while at the same time they are searching, with great expence and labour, after others in Greece and Asia, which are already known, and perhaps not so intire as these. I have caused a drawing to be made of the theatre above-mentioned, and some time or other (probably) may offer it to the public.

‘ I have lately met with a curious dissertation, published by a professor of the university of Pisa, upon a gem, which exhibits the Theban war, with the names of five heroes engraved in Etruscan characters upon it. You (in all probability) saw it at Florence, in the cabinet of Baron Stofsch, who a few days ago was struck with an apoplexy, and lies now at the point of death.’

‘ A few mouths ago I published a dissertation upon a little marble relievo, inscribed with Greek characters of the smallest size. The subject of it is the story of Circe, as related by Homer, Odyss. lib. x. It is really remarkable, that whereas there are extant several ancient monuments alluding to the Iliad of that poet, very few are found, which refer to the Odyssey.

‘ There has lately been discovered without the *Porta Prænestina* (or Maggiore) about four miles from Rome, an old sepulchral apartment, wherein were four sarcophagus’s, adorned with very curious relievo’s. Two of them were of a large size; the other two of a smaller. On the first of the large ones was elegantly carved the fight of the giants, who are represented with thighs composed of serpents. The second appeared to me to express the combat of the Amazons and Theseus. Of the two smaller sarcophagus’s, one exhibited Bacchus in a chariot drawn by centaurs, and preceded by the whole chorus of the Bacchantes: the other seemed to be a battle (perhaps) between the Greeks and the Trojans; as one part of the figures had long beards, tunics, and long breeches: all of them were of exquisite workmanship.

‘ There has been lately dug up here an admirable statue of Venus, with an elegant Cupid standing upon a dolphin; as also several curious inscriptions.

‘ I have communicated your extract of Mr. Swinton’s most learned conjectures concerning a coin of Monefes, a Parthian king, to signor Corfini. He approved of the performance, and admired the judgment and acute penetration of the author: but excepted a little to that part, where, in order to ascertain the epoch of the piece, he [Mr. Swinton] expresses a doubt with regard

regard to the *victory* on the reverse of it ; as there was no engagement that year between the Romans and the Parthians. But when Monefes had usurped the throne, dispossessed the lawful heirs, and plundered the neighbouring nations, it is no wonder, that he should stamp a *victory* on his coin : which symbol ought to be referred to some considerable advantage gained over the barbarians, and not over the Romans.'

Dr. Lister, Hoffman, and some later naturalists, have doubted the existence of the sulphureous principle in those waters called mineral. Dr. Rutty has, on the other hand, in number XXVIII, fully evinced the existence of sulphur in waters, by a great number of curious observations and quæries, which deserve well of the public, but would exceed our limits to render compleat.

Annexed to a letter wrote by Mr. Mountain, in number XXX, of the effects of lightning, we have some sensible remarks by Dr. Knight, which render very dubious that long-established opinion, that lightning fuses metals, without producing heat or ignition.

It would be impossible to present the reader with a view of the several experiments, made by Mr. Wilson, on the *Tourmalin*, or *Asbestone*, which may justly be deemed a valuable accession to the philosophy of the electrical effluvia ; or, of the ingenious remarks on electricity communicated to the society by Robert Symmer, Esq;. We shall therefore close this article with a short extract, from some observations made by Dr. Watson, on that stone called *Lyncurium*, by the ancients. ' If (says the doctor) I may be permitted to give my thoughts concerning the *Lyncurium* of the ancients, I make no scruple to think it to be exceedingly probable, that what we now call the *Tourmaline* was the *Lyncurium* of Theophrastus, as it agrees with that author's description in all its sensible qualities ; to wit, that it is a very hard pellucid stone, of a deep-red colour ; that it is very proper to engrave seals upon ; that it attracts, like amber, not only straws and light pieces of wood, but filings of iron and brass, as has been lately evinced by many experiments. And what will give some weight to this opinion is, that this stone, though not much attended to by us till very lately, is very common in several parts of the East-Indies, and more particularly in the island of Ceylon, where it is called by the natives *Tournamal*.

' The first account which we have had, of late years at least, of this extraordinary stone, was in the History of the Royal Academy of Sciences of Paris, for the year 1717 ; where we are told, that Mr. Lemery exhibited a stone, which, he said, was not

not common, and came from Ceylon. This stone attracted and repelled little light bodies, such as ashes, filings of iron, bits of paper, and such like. The publisher of that history then proceeds to give some reasons for these phænomena. Linnæus, in his preface to the *Flora Zeylanica*, mentions this stone under the name of *lapis electricus*; and takes notice of M. Lemery's experiments before-mentioned.

‘Notwithstanding this, no further mention was made of this stone, and its effects, till very lately. The duke de Noya, in his letter to M. de Buffon, which was presented to the Royal Society a few months ago, informs us, that when at Naples in the year 1743, the late count Pichetti, secretary to the king, assured him, that, during his stay at Constantinople, he had seen a small stone, called a tourmaline, which attracted and repelled ashes. This account the duke de Noya had quite forgot; but, being last year in Holland, he saw and purchased two of these stones, which are called *aschentrikker*. The making experiments with these called to his remembrance what formerly had been told him by count Pichetti. With these stones he made, in company with messieurs Daubenton and Adanson, a great number of experiments, of which the duke has favoured the public with a particular account.

‘In the year 1757, there were two accounts published upon this subject: the one is a memoir of M. Æpinus, read to the Royal Academy at Berlin, intitled, *De quibusdam experimentis electricis notabilioribus*. The other is a treatise in quarto, printed at Rostock, intitled, *Disputatio de electricitatibus contrariis*. Auctore Joanne Carolo Wilke. Since which time Dr. Heberden, who is ever desirous of extending the bounds of science, having procured some of these stones from Holland, a great number and variety of experiments with them have been made here, particularly by the ingenious Mr. Wilson.’

[To be continued.]

ART. XI. *The Voyages and Cruises of Commodore Walker, during the late Spanish and French Wars. In two Volumes. 12mo. Pr. 5s. Millar.*

WITHOUT any of the masterly talents of an author, or incidents very singular or striking, the writer of these voyages has attained the happy art of engaging the attention, and strongly interesting the reader in his narrative. It was well known before this publication, that the commodore bore the character of a generous, brave, and skilful officer; that he is unfortunate is equally well known; but that he is so thro' any fault in

in his own conduct, is a matter which we find questioned by persons who have made the strictest inquiry: certain we are, that his case appears a flagrant proof of the necessity of reforming our laws between debtors and creditors; whereby so many brave and loyal subjects are kept languishing in loathsome prisons, while they might be extending the national honour and interest, and striking terror in his majesty's enemies. But unhappily there always are certain persons in this country, whose private interest it is to oppose every measure for the public good: who thrive and fatten on the spoils of their country; hear the widow's moaning, and orphan's cries without remorse; and, provided they can screen themselves under the sanction of law or chicanery, set at defiance conscience, honour, and the world. *

It would be robbing the reader of great satisfaction to present him with an abstract of the voyages before us; as perhaps the most amusing anecdotes and incidents are those which have no immediate relation to the principal narrative. The following humorous story will evince our assertion. When Mr. Walker was setting out on his second cruise in the *Boscawen* private ship of war, A. D. 1745, a report made by the French officers, when the ship was taken, that a gunner's wife had been murdered on board, began now to be look'd upon by the men, as ominous of the misfortunes which would attend the cruise. One of the seamen remarkable for his sobriety and good character, one night alarmed the ship, by declaring he had seen a strange appearance of a woman, who informed him, among other particulars, that the ship would be lost. The story spread among the crew, and laid such hold of the imagination, as would have been attended with the most serious consequences, had not Mr. Walker contrived a device for turning it into ridicule, and with great presence of mind related the following anecdote to the assembled ship's crew:

' In June, 1734, Mr. Walker lying at an anchor at Cadiz, in his ship the *Elizabeth*, a gentleman of Ireland, whose name was Burnet, was then on board, going to take his passage over to Ireland. This gentleman was a particular acquaintance of Mr. Walker's, and he was extremely fond of him, being a man of great good sense, and very lively in conversation. The night before the affair we speak of happened, the subject turned upon apparitions of deceased friends, in which this gentleman seemed much to believe, and told many strange stories as authorities for them, besides giving some metaphysical arguments, chiefly that the natural fear we had of them proved the soul's confes-

* Mr. Walker has lately obtained his liberty, much to the honour of those who procured it.

sion of them. But Mr. Walker, who was intirely of another way of thinking, treating all his arguments with ridicule, Mr. Burnet, who was bred a physician, was curious to try how far fancy might be wrought on in an unbeliever, and resolved to prove the power of this natural fear over the senses : a strange way, you will say, to convince the mind by attacking the imagination ; or, if it was curiosity to see the operations of fear work on fancy, it was too nice an experiment to anatomize a friend's mind for information only. But perhaps the humour of the thought was the greatest motive ; for he was a man of a gay temper, and frolicsome.

About noon, as they were standing, with more of the ship's company, upon deck, near the fore-castle, looking at some of the governor's guard-boats making fast to a buoy of a ship in the bay, in order to watch the money, that it might not be carried out of the country, Mr. Burnet proposed, as a plan for a wager, he being a remarkable good swimmer, to leap off the gunnel of the ship, and dive all the way quite under water, from the ship to the boats at that distance, and so rise up upon them, to startle the people at watch in them. A wager being laid, he undressed, jumped off, and dived intirely out of sight. Every body crowded forwards, keeping their eyes at the distance where he was expected to come up ; but he never rising to their expectation, and the time running past their hopes of ever seeing him more, it was justly concluded he was drowned, and every body was in the greatest pain and concern ; especially those, who by laying the wager, thought themselves in some measure accessory to his death. But he, by skilful diving, having turned the other way behind the ship ; and being also very active, got up by the quarter-ladder in at the cabin-window, whilst every body was busy and in confusion, at the forward part of the ship ; then concealing himself the remaining part of the day in a closet in the state-room, wrapped himself up in a linen night-gown of Mr. Walker's. Evening coming on, the whole ship's company being very melancholy at the accident, Mr. Walker retired with a friend or two to his cabin, where, in their conversation, they often lamented the sad accident and loss of their friend and dear companion, speaking of every merit he had when living, which is the unenvied praise generally given to our friends when they can receive nothing else from us. The supposed dead man remained still quiet, and heard more good things said to his memory than perhaps he would else have ever in his life-time heard spoken to his face. As soon as it was night, Mr. Walker's company left him ; and he being low in spirits went to bed, where lying,

4

still

still pensive on the late loss of his companion and friend, and the moon shining direct thro' the windows, he perceived the folding-doors of the closet to open; and, looking stedfast towards them, saw something which could not fail startling him, as he imagined it a representation of a human figure; but recalling his better senses, he was fond to persuade himself, it was only the workings of his disturbed fancy, and turned away his eyes. However, they soon again returned in search of the object; and seeing it now plainly advance upon him, in a slow and constant step, he recognized the image of his departed friend. He has not been ashamed to own he felt terrors which shook him to the inmost soul. The mate, who lay in the steerage at the back of the cabin, divided only by a bulk-head, was not yet a-bed; and hearing Mr. Walker challenge with a loud and alarmed voice, 'What are you?' ran into him with a candle, and meeting Mr. Burnet in the linen gown, down drops the mate without so much as an ejaculation. Mr. Burnet, now beginning himself to be afraid, runs for a bottle of smelling spirits he knew lay in the window, and applied them to the nose and temples of the swooning mate. Mr. Walker, seeing the ghost so very alert and good-natured, began to recover from his own apprehension, when Mr. Burnet cried out to him, 'Sir, I must ask your pardon; I fear I have carried the jest too far; I swam round and came in at the cabin window; I meant, Sir, to prove to you the natural awe the bravest men must be under at such appearances, and have, I hope, convinced you in yourself.' 'Sir, says Mr. Walker, glad of being awakened from a terrible dream, and belief of his friend's death, you have given me a living instance; there needs no better proof: but pray take care you do not bring death amongst us in earnest.' He then lent his aid in the recovery of the poor mate, who, as he retrieved his senses, still relapsed at the sight of Mr. Burnet: so that Mr. Walker was obliged to make him intirely disappear, and go call others to his assistance; which took up some considerable time in doing, every body, as Mr. Burnet advanced to them, being more or less surpris'd; but they were called to by him, and told the manner of the cheat, and then they were by degrees convinced of his reality; tho' every one was before thoroughly satisfied of his death. I being persuaded that this story carries a lesson in it, which speaks itself, shall conclude it by mentioning this circumstance, that the poor mate never rightly recovered the use of his senses from that hour. Nature had received too great a shock, by which Reason was flung from her seat, and could never regain it afterwards: a constant stupidity hung around him, and he could never be brought to look direct at Mr. Burnet afterwards, tho' he was as brave a
man

man as ever went, in all his senses, to face death by daylight.

Mr. Walker has shewn such a readiness of wit upon many other occasions, that it is probable we owe this story wholly to his invention; but whether we do or not, the application was judicious and seasonable; it corroborates many other instances given in this narration, of his being perfectly master of the passions, humours, and affections of the private men; one of the most necessary qualifications, and perhaps the most difficult to obtain, of a sea-officer.

FOREIGN ARTICLES.

ART. XII. *Oeuvres du Philosophe de Sans-fouci.*

The Works of the Sans-fouci * Philosopher.

THOUGH this volume of poems has been openly denied by the royal author, to whom it was ascribed, the learned, however, are under no doubt, but that most, if not all the poems contained in it, were written by him. It is certain, that some time ago this monarch caused his poems to be printed, twelve copies of which, bound up in the most magnificent manner, were distributed among his particular friends; which of them was unfaithful to his trust we shall not take upon us to determine, but certain it is, that none at all acquainted with the subject, dispute the collection to be his.

A king, who, in this extraordinary manner, undertakes to instruct mankind, does honour not only to himself but to humanity: tho' his motives for disowning these poems may be politic and wise, yet his motives for writing them are certainly laudable. Not led by the blind admiration which influences the crowd, we may safely rank them among the few publications that do honour to the present age; and had they been written by the meanest subject, would have been applauded by all who are possessed of any taste, or who are pleased with strong and manly thinking.

The collection consists of odes and epistles, addressed to several of his friends; and the art of war, in six cantos, addressed, as it would seem, to his nephew. This last, tho' not very correct, abounds with some noble sallies of passion; his odes are

* Sans-fouci is a house of pleasure belonging to the king of Prussia.—Had it meant *careless* or *easy*, it would have been written *Du philosophe Sans-fouci*.

rather too temperate for that kind of writing, but his epistles are certainly models of elegance, strength, dignity, and ease. We could wish the generality of our readers were capable of understanding and relishing him in the original; if such had been the case, a translation of any part of his works would have been quite unnecessary; but as there are many, who may prefer a faint copy which they understand, to the original they may be imperfectly acquainted with, we shall beg leave to gratify such with a translation of one of the epistles. It is just that we, who sometimes censure what others write, should give them an opportunity of censuring us.

‘ Epistle XIX. from the king of Prussia to his private secretary
Monf. Darget.

‘ *The apology of kings.*

‘ Patient transcriber of my painful strain,
Guardian of all the labours of my brain;
Tell me, Darget, from ceremony free,
What think you of a master form’d like me?
From long-protracted solitude, become
Absent, unequal, melancholy, dumb.
Who, for whole days, sits plodding o’er a book,
No algebraist with a fow’rer look,
Slighting each joy that pleasure would impart,
Thought on his brow, and sorrow at his heart.
Speak out, Darget, to reason canst thou bring
A life, so mortify’d in such a king.

‘ A king, ye gods!’ methinks I hear thee cry,
While the big wish sit sparkling on thine eye,
‘ Would gracious heaven indulge me with a crown,
The gods themselves should look with envy down:
No crabbed problem should my thoughts pursue,
But beauty, ever kind as well as new;
Would some well-judging people make me king,
From morn till night I’d drink, and dance, and sing;
Search all the magazine of things below,
Is there a bliss forbidden kings to know:
Where’er their most fantastic wishes fall,
Some ready slave anticipates the call;
Kings can condemn, or pardon, save, or kill,
And make it peace, or give us wars at will;
Idols of earth, and favourites of the skies,
’Tis their’s to taste new pleasures as they rise,
Hail, happy state of demigods below,
Where unembitter’d pleasures ever flow:
Hail, happy state of transport, and of rest,
Where none but fools, or madmen, are unblest.’

‘ Soft,

Soft, good Darget, let passion ne'er prevail,
But cool enquiry hold the pond'ring scale:
Let's view those pleasures with impartial eyes,
And coolly trace the subject as it lies.

Fortune for thee has humbly drest the scene,
Meting thy pleasures with her golden mean.
Mediocrity presents the well-mix'd bowl,
To opiate every sorrow of thy soul;
Not niggard quite, nor lavish of her store,
Has giv'n thee just enough, and nothing more.
What greater curse can Providence decree
Than indigence, or superfluity?
Extremes are but the wayward tricks of nature,
Or dwarf or giant, 'tis a monstrous creature;
Ill dress'd alike the beggar and the beau,
Who shrinks in rags, or sweats in ermin'd shew:
Soft peace for thee forsakes the kingly crown,
To wrap thy temples in her nightly down.
While blest'd without solicitude, or sorrow,
Thy taste of present bliss excludes to-morrow.

Too happy man from ev'ry danger free,
That overwhelms the great, and presseth me;
Too mean for envy, too obscure for foes,
The storms of censure lull thee to repose.

If when at home thy praise-deserving wife,
Forbears to stun thee with domestic strife,
At eve returning with fatigue oppress'd,
If she receive thee fondly to her breast,
If no collected rheums invade thine eyes,
If Dalichamp* with proper health supplies,
What other bliss has providence in store?
Darget, mistaken mortal, ask no more.

Yet, as I speak, methinks I hear thee call
My prudent counsel, declamation all.
Talk ne'er so wise, and reason as I will,
That frigid face looks opposition still;
Condemns my fine description as untrue,
And far more bright than nature ever drew.

Well then, we grant that heav'n some pain dispenses,
In making thee a king's amanuensis,
Who oft for hours pursues the scribbling fit,
And mercy on us takes! it all for wit.
Who fancies ready fame prepares to hear,
And eccho back his trash in ev'ry ear:

* A surgeon.

Then when the live-long page is copied out,
 Makes, heav'n defend our hearing, such a rout;
 On stops and points exhausts his indignation,
A comma here has quite mistook its station.
And here a dash ——— and there a blank should be,
Hypphen ! parenthesis ! apostrophe !
That fatal period sets the sense at odds,
All must be copied fair by all the gods.
 Thus damn'd once more to dress the page divine,
 You wish him at the devil ev'ry line.

If such the faithful portrait of thy woes,
 If such the source whence ev'ry sorrow flows,
 Come on my friend, and let us calmly try,
 Who best deserves compassion, you or I.
 Try what estate can best from sorrow save,
 And wisely weigh the monarch with the slave :

Yet, think I not intend to deck my rhimes
 With paradox, the blush of modern times :
 Or smoothing falshood with ingenious care,
 Give some exploded trash a novel air.
 The truths I tell, I feel them at my heart,
 Truths which even pride forbids me to impart.

Severe the task, and rigid is the school,
 And harder than all arts, the art to rule :
 The king, who winds thro' each detail of state,
 Who studies to be good, as well as great ;
 Who fills th' incumbent duties of his reign,
 Can only boast pre-eminence of pain.

On either side imposing equal laws,
 Fixing determin'd dates to every cause ;
 If justice over discord would prevail,
 And resolutely fix the wav'ring scale,
 Behold a fiend that keeps the world in awe,
 Chicane, with all her hundred dogs of law ;
 Forth issuing furious from her dark abode,
 Spurns with contempt the legislative code.
 But stranger still ! even those who disagree,
 Receive, dissatisfy'd, the quick decree,
 And with a fund of long debate supply'd,
 Judge from caprice the justice of their side.

Imposing taxes next require his skill,
 Where each contributes sore against his will ;
 Ambition's wish, the courtier's lacquer'd pride,
 Is by the grudging cottager supply'd.
 Whence each their different discontents express,
 One asks for more, and t'other would give less.

To ev'ry tax while that avows dissention,
 From ev'ry tax this hopes a nobler pension.
 Each, loud exclaims at each, yet all agree,
 To arrogate redress from majesty.
 Happy the king in lore hermetic school'd,
 Could he content them both by making gold :
 Yet happier, far more happy could his laws
 Restore the commonwealth which Plato draws.

The hardy soldier next demands his care,
 And rigid discipline with brow severe ;
 The furious warrior, eager for debate,
 If unemploy'd, would overturn the state.
 By their prætorian bands, the Romans saw
 A venal empire, and subverted law.
 Lions of war, impatient to command,
 Themis must rule them with her iron hand :
 Yet not severity alone will do,
 But threats, and hopes, and sometimes flatt'ry too :
 Their force together must united run,
 And all the hundred thousand act as one ;
 Compact the vast machine must learn to roll,
 A king, the central nave that moves the whole :
 This to effect requires unbounded care,
 The half too much for one alone to bear.

“ Well then, at last, the catalogue is done : ”
 Patience, my friend, 'tis scarcely yet begun.
 Cares follow care, and toils succeed to pain,
 I've shew'd a few, but hundreds yet remain.

The rights of kingdoms next his peace assail,
 His policy must guide the public weal :
 To rivals, friends, his conduct must oppose,
 And these demand restraint, and succour those.
 Thus balanc'd, each European pow'r is free,
 All finding in distrust, security.
 If kings were just, and treaties were sincere,
 Small were the task, and light the statesman's care.
 But when contracting powers, by interest sway'd,
 Make politics a low deceiving trade :
 When fraud, of caution, falsely bears the name,
 And turns to science what should make our shame :
 When truth appears no more, but every state
 Abounds with men, whom crimes have render'd great :
 Even wisdom's self must learn to change her side,
 And combat crimes with arms by crime supply'd.
 Treaties with two-fold meaning well design'd,
 Must seem to fasten, and yet nothing bind.

Conventions firm as zephyrs when they blow,
Must be prepar'd, and copied out for show :
Hence genuine virtue no delight can bring,
Since crimes themselves are virtuous in a king.

Few are the friends an hapless monarch knows,
His nearest neighbours are his greatest foes.
While these ambitious views in secret frame,
'Tis his to counteract each fav'rite scheme ;
And pond'ring how their words and acts agree,
Read in the present, dark futurity.
Thus, wheresoe'er he turns, whate'er he tries,
Dangers unseen, and disappointments rise ;
As when besiegers, anxious for renown,
Advancing o'er the glaxis of a town,
With cautious steps, and slow, explore around,
Nor trust their safety to the hollow ground,
Where many a death in bosom'd ambush lies,
And thunders long to meet their kindred skies :
Such is the skill, and such the caution shewn,
In disappointing mines that sap the throne.

' But grant each duty done. Alas ! in vain
His thoughtless, thankless subjects, still complain :
In ev'ry science those expect him skill'd,
In commerce, laws, in council, and the field.
Those who are punish'd blame his harsh decree,
The prosecutors blame his lenity.
Is he for war ? From hence fresh clamours spring,
' Heav'ns ! what a curse, ambition in a king !'
Is he for peace ? ' Our prince in idiot state,
Fears the loud call that animates the great.'
Rules he alone ? his caution each accuses,
Who council wiser than his own refuses.
Does he permit his ministers to rule ?
Then each perceives the monarch but a tool.
Has he a fav'rite ? All his weakness see.
Without, 'tis mere insensibility.
If free, despis'd ; if ceremonious, nice ;
But gallantry comprizes ev'ry vice.

Vain, very vain, my friend, are all who can
Hope for perfection in imperfect man :
Their crowns, and globes, and thrones, and ointments too,
Lift kings not one inch nearer heav'n than you ;
To fix a faultless monarch on the throne,
Let sculptor *Adam* carve him out in stone ;
For none but such can 'scape each envious blow,
Which *Cæsar* felt, and *Titus* learn'd to know.

Ask you, why obloquy with angry frown,
Still glances at the head that wears a crown ?
The answer's plain : for some by nature free,
Detest whatever checks their liberty.

Others again, with smaller cause of hate,
Envy the glitt'ring tinsel of his state :
One to his friend in secret seems to cry,
' Ah, could our monarch learn to think as I.'
Another openly ; ' Were I in his place,
Things should put on a very different face.'

See, to repair their shatter'd fortunes some,
With smiles and bows, and long petitions, come :
Tell me, Darget, can such a king as I,
Supply their wants, when heav'n can scarce supply !
Yet each refusal new detraction sows,
And ev'ry hour procures encreasing foes.

Secure in conscious rectitude to stand,
To steer the bark with unremitting hand,
When tempests rise and blacken on the view,
To steer the bark is all that's left to do :
Tho' envy hiss, and loud resentment swell,
Be theirs to rage, and ours to govern well.

Yet think me not, Darget, resolv'd to spare
One guilty monarch with fraternal care :
Perish, ye gods ! the prostituted lays,
Which daub a tyrant with injurious praise.
The honest muse shall ever learn to blame
The herd of vulgar kings, unknown to fame,
Pregnant with whim, or slumb'ring on a throne,
And to no kingdoms dreadful, but their own :
With such the muse declares eternal strife,
Take then their portraits finish'd from the life.
A vulgar king —— but, lo ! thy looks betray
A most impatient wish to get away.
Thy wife prepares to chide thy late return,
Thy cook exclaims ; the roast begins to burn !
The very coachman thinks I keep you long,
I hear him cough, and smack his angry thong.
Well, go thy ways ; but first, this maxim know,
That all estates find equal bliss below.

ART. XIII. *Lettres de Madame la Marquise de Villars, Ambassadrice en Espagne, dans le temps du Mariage de Charles II. Roi d'Espagne, avec la Princesse Marie-Louise d'Orléans, fille de Monsieur, frère unique de Louis XIV. & de Henriette-Anne d'Angleterre, sa première femme. 12mo.*

IN these letters we have a spirited and entertaining view of the court of Madrid, of the character of the Spanish nation, and of the grand preparations made for solemnizing the nuptials of Charles II. of Spain, with Maria Louisa of Orleans, niece to Lewis XIV. The visits she received and returned among the Spanish ladies, have furnished madame de Villars with subjects for the most sprightly satire, and delicate raillery, preserving in both the utmost good humour, and regard to politeness and decorum. We may venture, in short, to recommend her letters, as models in the epistolary way.

ART. XIV. *Lettres Historique, pour servir de suite à l'Histoire de de la Grande Bretagne, et à l'Histoire Militaire et civile des Ecoquois au Service de France. 12mo.*

FROM the spirit of prejudice, of resentment and partiality, that breathes through every line of this little performance, we may judge it the production of some gentleman, whose misfortune in being forced to spend his life in a foreign country, the avowed enemy of his own, has not sufficiently roused him to a sense of the duty he owes to those laws, and that government under which he received his being and education. Let the reader judge of the rest by the following paragraph, which, besides its inelegance, is almost false in every particular. 'Qui pourroit concevoir, si l'événement n'étoit encore sous nos yeux, que l'auguste C. E. avec 2000 montagnards, sans caverie, exposés en flanc comme en front au feu de l'artillerie Angloise, fût venu a bout de détruire à Preston un corps d'Anglois de plus de 5000 hommes des plus agueris, qui venoient de se distinguer en Flandre; de prendre ensuite avec une très-petite armée deux ou trois places, et de s'avancer jusqu' à 25 lieues des Londres?'

Monthly CATALOGUE.

Art. 15. *Some Thoughts on the Anomalous Malignant Measles, lately peculiarly prevalent in the Western Parts of England.* 4to.
Pr. 6d. Cooper.

THE author of this little florid declamation will perceive from the lenity with which we treat his performance, that his apprehensions of the critical lash are groundless, and that we can wink at a thousand trespasses against good writing, out of regard to a good intention in the writer. Indeed, we are not fond of seeing direct blows levelled at Priscian's head, or a well-meaning piece obscured with affectation, hard words, and a peculiar phraseology, when the sense might as well be conveyed in the ordinary language of mankind.

The nature of the disease here described will appear from the following extract :

' The diagnostics of the anomalous malignant measles, which disease for some months past has made a melancholy carnage amongst children, may be said to be these ; a heaviness and pain in the head, a difficult respiration, (seemingly arising from an obstruction somewhere in the trachea) an amazingly rapid pulse, and some red eruptions more or less, which run in irregular groups and splashes on the surface of the skin, and which always on their first appearance, at least, give a degree of transient relief to the patient : the tongue is either white or brown, according to the greater or less vitiation of the humours : the urine is sometimes high and transparent, at others, turbid. It not seldom happens, that nature having in vain made an effort to get rid of the disease by the skin, furiously impels it towards the guts ; where it almost universally produces a fatal colliquative diarrhæa.

' The pulse, which in the beginning was very frequent and smart, towards the latter end, if the patient dies, turns languid and excessively quick ; the difficulty of breathing sometimes much abates after the state of the disease, for some days, till near the article of death ; the eruptions alternately appear and disappear, and nature makes many unsuccessful attempts to discharge the offending matter by the skin, but at length utterly disappointed, harraressed, and exhausted, yields to unavoidable dissolution.'

With respect to the method of cure, the author strenuously opposes, and with seeming reason, all brisk evacuations by stool, though he allows of gentle clysters at the beginning of the disease. Blisters, he says, are sometimes useful, and for a

very uncommon reason; namely, that they dispose the patient to sleep. Here is the method which he asserts he has practised with success. If sent for early in the disease, a few grains of ipecacuanha by way of emetic; and if the patient be costive, for any continuance of time, a dose of rhubarb, just sufficient to procure a stool or two, are administered. When the *primæ viæ* are cleared, our author proceeds with the following formulæ:

‘*R* Magnesiæ Albæ ℥j; pulver. e Bolo composit. gr. v; Salis Volatilis Corn. Cerv. gr. iij; Olei Cimmam. chymic. guttulam unam; Syr. Croci q. s; M. f. Bolus sexta quaque hora sumendus in Cochleare pleno Julepi sequentis, dilutis:

‘*R* Aquæ. Cinnamomi tenuis recentisque ℥v; Spir. Lavendulæ c. ʒij; Sp. volatil. aromat. gtt. xxx; Syrupi e Meconio—Balsamici aa ʒv; M.

‘To this, perhaps, a small quantity of elixir paregoricum’ might be added, not without advantage. As the dyspnæa and cough attendant on the disease, don’t appear to arise from a humoral infarction of the lungs, such as would make the lac ammoniacum an eligible medicine, and which would contraindicate hypnotics; but rather from a local inflammation and obstruction either in or above the lungs; I give a dose of syrupus e meconio or some other-like anodyne, every night: this, it appears to me, has a double good effect, not only, in moderating, without suppressing the fever; but likewise, in quieting the lungs, and freeing them, and the trachœa, from the agitation of coughing, which must necessarily by increasing the local inflammation, endanger ulcers, or a gangrene of the parts: to this end likewise a sperma ceti linctus, mixed with yolk of egg, with a portion of the diacodium, may be exhibited often, by tea spoonfuls.

‘Also a plaister or cataplasm of theriaca andromachi, with a pretty good quantity of camphor, may be applied with a probability of doing service: let it be spread on thin leather edged with emp: adhæsiv: big enough to envelop the neck and throat, and reach downward to the breast, as far as the superior edge of the sternum.

‘I think after the fever, thus, or in like manner regulated, has done the work for which *nature* intended it, ’tis his right to administer two or three rhabarbarate purges; and if a flaccidity and languor of solids require it, a decoction of the following sort may be used with advantage.

R Cort.

‘℞ Cort. p. crass. pul. ℥ss, coq. in aquæ fontanæ ℥xxxvj, ad evaporationem tertiæ partis, colaturæ frigidæ adde. ol. cinnam: chym. (in spiritus vini rect. q. s. soluti), guts. v; elix. vitriol. gtt. 36; sp. lavend. c. ℥ss. syr. croc. ℥ijss. M. exhibe cochlear. iij, seu dosin, ad Ætatem Infantis idoneam, bis, terve, de die.’

Such was the practice of our author, which we must allow to be well enough adapted to the diagnostics he describes, and the age of the patient; for, in general, the malignant measles, as he calls them, are confined to children, from one to six years of age.

Art. 16. *The Political Hum-Bug: Addressed to the General Dedication-Post of Great-Britain.* 8vo. Pr. 1s, 6d. Ranger.

This pamphlet might, with more propriety, be called the literary hum-bug, as instead of humour, which we were led from the title to expect, we find nothing besides impudent gross abuse against a glorious monarch, and a minister who has hitherto merited all the applause bestowed on his conduct by his grateful country.

Art. 17. *Tristram Shandy in a Reverie. Containing among other choice Things, his Thoughts on the two late remarkable Trials and the Delinquents—An Answer to the Clock-maker—Adventure at the Bedford—Hints upon Matrimony, &c. &c. To which is added, The Litera Infernalis, or Poor Yorick! Recorded by Himself. And by him addressed to the Admirers of his Life and Opinions.* 8vo. Pr. 1s. Williams.

The most stupid, unmeaning, silly attempt to humour, that ever insulted the public curiosity after every thing that bears the name of *Shandy*.

Art. 18. *Two new Essays, by David Hume, Esq; 1st. Of the Jealousy of Trade. 2d. Of the Coalition of Politics.*

The last of these essays, in particular, reflects credit on the good sense, moderation, and public spirit of the elegant writer. Mr. Hume's writings will admit of no abstract, as it would not be possible to couch his meaning in less compass than he has allowed it, without losing much of the strength and beauty of his reasoning. We shall therefore close this article with observing, that the author runs no hazard of diminishing the reputation he has deservedly acquired of a refined, manly, and free inquirer, by this addition to his political works.

Art.

- Art. 19. *The History of Tom Fool.* 12mo. 2 Vols. Pr. 6s. Waller.

Our hero probably takes the name of Tom Fool for much the same reasons that appellation has been bestowed on kings jesters; namely, their being the honestest and wittiest persons about court. Certain gleams of humour flash in every page upon the reader, which shew the author possessed of the comic powers, had he had more regard to propriety of character. This alone is wanting, in our opinion, to render him deserving of a place among our best novel writers.

The author's reasons for publishing his book are whimsical and uncommon.

'There is a certain period of time, metaphysicians predicate by this term, anxious space.

'This vacuum is the half hour immediately preceding dinner; when diamonds scratch sash-windows, or decorate drinking-glasses; when plates are turned round upon forks, and the inside of French roles moulded into geometrical trapeziums.

'At that time, all the English world is,—a—I don't know howish.

'Therefore this book is recommended to be bought by all families, unchristian, as well as christian; and one chapter of it to be then served up, by way of whet.'

- Art. 20. *Candid and critical Remarks on the Dialogues of the Dead: In a Letter from a Gentleman in London to his Friend in the Country.* 8vo. Pr. 1s. 6d. Kearsley.

That the Dialogues of the Dead are not to the taste of our critic, we may infer from their being of a complexion totally different from his own compositions; but whether the public has decreed genius to the author, or taste to the critic, the booksellers of both can by this time determine.

- Art. 21. *The Transmigrating Soul; or, An Epitome of human Nature. A moral Satire.* By Lieutenant John Slade, of his Majesty's tenth Company of Marines. 8vo. Pr. 3s. Doddsley.

Some of the characters in this performance are not badly delineated, though we must own we were not sorry when we arrived at the last page.

- Art. 22. *The Beavers: A Fable.* 4to. Pr. 1s. Hooper.

In this fable there is a good deal of keen satire, too obvious to be misapplied. The versification is smooth and elegant.

Art.

Art. 23. *One Thousand Seven Hundred and Fifty Nine : A Poem, inscribed to every Briton who bore a Part in the Service of that distinguished Year. Fol. Pr. 6d. Baldwin.*

We cannot but regard this writer more for his patriotism than his poetry.

Art. 24. *A Scotsman's Remarks on the Farce of Love a la Mode, Scene by Scene. As it is acted at the Theatre Royal in Drury Lane. 8vo. Pr. 1s. Burd.*

Here we strongly suspect the author is turn'd critic on himself.

Art. 25. *An Essay on the pernicious Practice of impressing Seamen into the King's Service. Humbly dedicated to the Rt. Hon. William Pitt. By a Merchant of London. 8vo. Pr. 6d. Townsend.*

All that is here offered to the minister has been a thousand times repeated by scribbling merchants, country gentlemen, and pseudo members of parliament, since the commencement of the war.

Art. 26. *An Analysis of the philosophical Works of Lord Bolingbroke, by the late unfortunate Earl Ferrers, for his private entertainment; to which is prefixed, A Parallel of Earl Ferrers's Case, with that of Lord Santry, a Peer of Ireland, both convicted of Murder: and a sentimental Letter to a Friend. 8vo. Pr. 2s. Burd.*

It is a matter of indifference to the reader, whether or not this miserable abridgement be truly ascribed to the unfortunate peer mentioned in the title page. Certain we are, that his memory will reap but little honour from a compilation of apothegms strung together without meaning or method, and probably ushered into light, on this occasion, as a bait to the public curiosity. Most of the apothegms are trite; and some, we may venture to say, downright nonsense. What, for instance, can be intended by the following: 'Clearness and precision are the two great excellencies of human laws. By refuting *one* and the *other* when they differ, the clergy have made it no hard matter to refute *them both* when *they* agree. Where mystery begins, religion ends.' Here is a jingle not to be found, we believe, in the works of lord Bolingbroke, or of any other philosopher: in a word, this is a most stupid, a most blundering, and unwarrantable imposition on the understanding of the public.

Art.

Art. 27. *Two Odes.* 4to. Pr. 1s. H. Payne.

Whatever merit these odes must be allowed to possess, certainly the author might have chosen a subject more worthy of his genius. Every candid reader must regret that so much wit and poetry are employed in throwing ridicule on two gentlemen deservedly placed among the first poets of the age. But however we may condemn the judgment of our bard, we cannot deny our applause to the beauty of his verse, the strength of his humour, and poignancy of his satire. Several lines in imitation of the tuneful swans of Cam are equally natural and ludicrous: in them we admire the happy genius of the poet, while we lament the want of candour in the man. Fashion is admirably described in this stanza,

‘ Perch’d on the dubious height, she loves to ride
 Upon a weather-cock, astride.
 Each blast that blows, around she goes,
 While nodding o’er her crest,
 Emblem of her magic pow’r,
 The lightameleon stands confest,
 Changing its hues a thousand times an hour.
 And in a vest is she array’d,
 Of many a dancing moon-beam made,
 Nor zoneless is her waste:
 But fair and beautiful, I ween,
 As the cestos-cinctur’d queen,
 Is with the rainbow’s shadowy girdle brac’d.’

The pedigree of Pegasus, the poet’s race and fall, are no less humorous than poetical.

‘ High blood and youth his lusty veins inspire.
 From Tottipontimoy he came,
 Who knows not, Tottipontimoy, thy name?
 The bloody shoulder’d Arab was his sire.
 His White-nose. He on fam’d Doncastria’s plains
 Resign’d his fated breath:
 In vain for life the struggling courser strains.
 Ah! who can run the race with death?
 The tyrant’s speed, or man or steed,
 Strives all in vain to fly.
 He leads the chace, he wins the race,
 We stumble, fall, and die.

‘ Third from Whitenose springs,
 Pegasus with eagle wings:

Light

Light o'er the plain, as dancing cork,
 With many a bound he beats the ground,
 While all the turf with acclamation rings.
 He won Northampton, Lincoln, Oxford, York :
 He too Newmarket won.

There Granta's son
 Seiz'd on the steed ;
 And thence him led, (so fate decreed)
 To where old Cam, renown'd in poet's song,
 With his dark and inky waves
 Either bank in silence laves,
 Winding slow his sluggish streams along.
 See, see, he foars ! With mighty wings outspread,
 And long resounding mane,
 The courser quits the plain.
 Aloft in air, see, see him bear
 The bard who shrouds
 His lyric glory in the clouds,
 Too fond to strike the stars with lofty head,
 He topples headlong from the giddy height,
 Deep in the Cambrian gulph immerg'd in endless night'.

The ode to oblivion is replete with fine imagery and keen satire, which we shall therefore insert for the entertainment of our readers.

' Parent of Ease ! Oblivion old,
 Who lov'st thy dwelling-place to hold,
 Where sceptred Pluto keeps his dreary sway,
 Whose sullen pride the shiv'ring ghosts obey !
 Thou who delightest still to dwell
 By some hoar and moss-grown cell,
 At whose dank foot Cocytus joys to roll,
 Or Styx' black streams, which even Jove controul !
 Or if it suit thy better will
 To chuse the tinkling weeping rill,
 Hard by whose side the seeded poppy red
 Heaves high in air his sweetly curling head,
 While creeping in meanders flow
 Lethe's drowzy waters flow,
 And hollow blasts, which never cease to sigh,
 Hum to each care-struck mind their lulla lulla-by !
 A prey no longer let me be
 To that gossip Memory,
 Who waves her banners trim, and proudly flies
 To spread abroad her bribble-brabble lies.
 With thee, Oblivion, let me go.
 For Memory's a friend to Woe ;

With

With thee, Forgetfulness, fair silent queen,
The solemn stole of grief is never seen:

All, all is thine. Thy pow'rful sway
The throng'd poetic hosts obey.

Tho' in the van of Mem'ry proud t' appear,
At thy command they darken in the rear.

What tho' the modern tragic strain
For nine whole days protract thy reign,
Yet thro' the Nine, like whelps of currish kind,
Scarcely it lives, weak, impotent, and blind.

Sacred to thee the crambo rhyme,
The motley forms of pantomime:
For thee from eunuch's throat still loves to flow
The soothing sadness of his warbled woe:

Each day to thee falls pamphlet clean:
Each month a new-born magazine:
Hear then, O Goddess, hear thy vot'ry's pray'r!
And if thou deign'st to take one moment's care,
Attend thy bard! who duly pays
The tribute of his votive lays;

Whose muse still offers at thy sacred shrine;—
Thy bard, who calls Thee *his*, and makes *him* Thine.

O sweet Forgetfulness, supreme
Rule supine o'er ev'ry theme,
O'er each sad subject, o'er each soothing strain,
Of mine, O Goddess, stretch thine awful reign!

Nor let Mem'ry steal one note,
Which this rude hand to thee hath wrote!
So shalt thou save me from the poet's shame,
Tho' on the letter'd rubric Doddsley post my name.

O come! with opiate poppies crown'd,
Shedding slumbers soft around!
O come, fat Goddess, drunk with Falstaff's sack!—
See, where she sits on the benumb'd Torpedo's back!

Me in thy dull elysium lapt, O bless
With thy calm Forgetfulness!
And gently lull my senses all the while
With placid poems in the sinking stile!

Whether the herring-poet sing,
Great laureat of the fishes' king,
Or lycophron prophetic rave his fill,
Wrapt in the darker strains of Johnny ———;

Or if He sing, whose verse affords
A *bevy* of the *choicest* words,
Who meets his lady muse by moss-grown cell,
Adorn'd with epithet and tinkling bell:

These,

These, Goddess, let me still forget,
 With all the dearth of modern wit!
 So may'st thou gently o'er my youthful breast
 Spread with thy welcome hand Oblivion's friendly vest.'

Art. 28. *The Adventures of a Black Coat. Containing a Series of remarkable Occurrences and entertaining Incidents, that it was a Witness to in its Peregrinations through the Cities of London and Westminster, in Company with Variety of Characters. As related by itself.* 12mo. 2s. 6d. Williams.

This subject might have been sufficient to furnish an agreeable entertainment in one essay; but it is insupportably tedious, by being spun out into a book of this size. Not the adventures of the coat, but of the persons who wore it, make up the greatest part of the performance; and those adventures could have been more artificially connected by several other expedients. There are several unsuccessful attempts in our language of stringing a parcel of adventures together, by the feeble ties of an ill-designed personification; but unless the story be contrived in such a manner, that the incidents have an immediate reference to the ground-work of the plot, the whole becomes tiresome, and even with the merit of sentiment and stile, will naturally sink into oblivion.

Art. 29. *Considerations occasion'd by an Act of this present Session of Parliament, to prevent the excessive Use of Spirituous Liquors, by laying an additional Duty thereon, and to encourage the Exportation of British-Made Spirits.* 8vo. Pr. 1s.

The author of this pamphlet is sensible and intelligent; but how far his reasoning is supported by facts, is what readers, more conversant with the subject, must determine.

Art. 30. *Conversations on the Plurality of Worlds, by M. de Fontenelle. A new Translation, by a Gentleman of the Inner Temple.* Pr. 6s. Withy.

If this gentleman be no better skilled in his profession, than his notes shew him to be in the science of astronomy, we have but little hopes of ever seeing him in his chancellor's robes.

Art. 31. *The Honour and Advantage of Agriculture. Being the Twelfth Discourse of the Eighth Volume of Feijoo's Works, translated from the Spanish. By a Farmer in Cheshire.* 8vo. Pr. 1s. Doddsley.

Every lover of husbandry will receive pleasure from this just, eloquent, and sensible panegyric on agriculture, translated from one of the most esteemed of the Spanish writers. Art.

- Art. 32. *An Ode on the Birth-day of his Royal Highness George Prince of Wales.* June 4, 1760. By John Lockman, Secretary to the Society of the Free British Fishery. Presented to his Royal Highness at Saville-House. 4to. Pr. 6d.

From the coldness of his poetry, as well as the nature of his office, as secretary to the herring-fishery, our bard has a just claim to the title of *water-poet*.

- Art. 33. *A Brief and Impartial Survey of the Flour and Bread Trades.* Humbly inscribed to the Right Hon. the Lord Mayor of the City of London; the Mayors and Bailiffs of Cities and Towns Corporate, and Justices of the Peace throughout England. To which is annexed, a Specimen of a Table proposed for ascertaining the Price of Bread. 4to. Pr. 1s. Owen.

However uncouth the language of our author may be, he has written sensibly upon a subject of most interesting concern to the public.

- Art. 34. *A History of the cruel Sufferings of the Protestants, and Others, by Popish Persecutions, in various Countries: Together with a View of the Reformations from the Church of Rome. Interspersed with the Barbarities of the Inquisition.* By Question and Answer. Faithfully compiled from a great Number of Authors, in different Languages, by John Lockman, Secretary to the Society of the Free British Fishery. 12mo. Pr. 3s. Baldwin.

The little work before us appears well enough calculated for the purpose expressed in the title page.

- Art. 35. *A Fragment of the True Religion. Being the Substance of Two Letters from a Methodist-Preacher in Cambridgeshire, to a Clergyman in Nottinghamshire.* 8vo. Pr. 6d. Williams.

Whoever will think it worth while to penetrate into the meaning of this extraordinary fragment, may consult the following article.

- Art. 36. *The Principles and Practices of the Methodists considered, in some Letters to the Leaders of that Sect. The First addressed to the Rev. Mr. B——e. Wherein are some Remarks on his Two Letters to a Clergyman in Nottinghamshire, lately published.* 8vo. Pr. 1s. Bristow.

The talents and learning of this gentleman might, in our opinion, be more usefully employed, than in seriously refuting the cant and jargon of a set of wrong-headed enthusiasts.

I N D E X.

A.

- A** *Bissinian* language, some account of 162
- Azor*, a poetical epistle, &c. recommendation of, with specimens and remarks 302
- Africa*, a description of 81, 161, 245, 325, 457
- Agriculture*, the honour and advantage of, &c. recommended 499
- Abmed Kyoperli*, his political conduct 22
- II. some account of 23
- American* Indians, their method of torture 51
- Anacreon*, Sappho, &c. remarks on their works 310
- Angola*, the kingdom of, described 251
- Annual Register*, &c. heads of, with quotations, character, and remarks 439
- Answer* to the letter to two Great Men; remarks on 155
- Apparition* to a gentleman, &c. specimen of, and censure 322
- Aquileia*, the siege of, a tragedy; the plan of, with extracts and recommendation 205
- Ardrah*, the kingdom of, described 259
- Arithmetic*, the elements or theory of, by J. Hardy; recommended 317
- Vol. IX.

Army, cautions and advices to the officers of, &c. recommendation of, with quotations 396

B.

- Balbe Berton*, chevalier de Grillon, his life and heroic actions; extracts of, with a recommendation 342
- Bankrupts*, observations on the state of, &c. 415
- Barbary*, an account of 457
- Beavers*, a fable; approved of 494
- Benevolence* inculcated by Christianity 4
- Benguela*, the kingdom of, described 246
- Benin*, the kingdom of, described 251
- Bibliotheca Biographica*, &c. by T. Flloyd, Esq; quotations of, and recommendation 445
- Bills* of exchange, &c. the laws of, &c. approved of 442
- Black coat*, the adventures of a, &c. remarks on 499
- Blood*, remarks on its flowing into the coronary vessels 39
- Bodies*, how to find their specific gravity in water 280
- Boissi*, M. his extraordinary resolution and relief 146
- Bolingbroke*, an analysis of his philosophical works, by the late earl Ferrers, &c. censured
- L1

I N D E X.

- fured as a stupid imposition 495
- Botany*, an introduction to, &c. by James Lee, heads of, with a recommendation 315
- Bourn*, Sam. his series of discourses on natural religion; an account of, and remarks on 65
- Brain*, its function and nerves 46
- Brewer*, complete, &c. approv'd of 316
- Bridge*-building, observations on; the design of this performance 155
- Bridges* (stone) short principles for their architecture, by S. Rion, Esq; censured 414
- Brumoy's* Greek theatre, translated by Mrs. C. Lennox; specimens of, with approbation 116
- Burmanni*, P. orationes; recommendation of, with their titles, and account of the author 401
- C.
- Campagne* de Hollande, en 1672, sous les ordres de M. le duc de Luxembourg; remarks on 227
- Canada*, an account of a surprising earthquake there, 53; the importance of that colony 72
- Bape-Breton*, &c. genuine letters and memoirs relating to the natural, &c. history of, &c. summary of this approved performance 297
- Cat*, the life and adventures of a, &c. censured 420
- Cato*, his character 263
- Chaufara* fish described 50
- Charlevoix*, M. his misrepresentations 48
- Chinese* theatres, some account of 123
- Chrysal*, or the adventures of a guinea; character of 419
- Cicero*, his character 264
- Coin* of Great Britain, observations on 497
- Cornwall*, description of some Roman antiquities found there 471
- Corpulency*, a discourse on the nature, &c. of, by M. Flemmyng, M. D. extracts of, and recommendation 378
- Cowper*, James, M. D, his narrative of the effects of Mr. Keyser's antivenereal medicine; some account of 415
- Cranium*, observations on the concussions of 32
- Crevier's* history of the Roman emperors, &c. vol. VI. remarks on, with extracts 362
- Critics*, common sense the first requisite in; their inconsistencies 19
- Cromwell*, Oliver, some anecdotes of 450
- D.
- Desert* island, a dramatic poem, &c. plan of, with quotations, and character 133
- Despair* repugnant to Christianity 6
- Dialogues* of the dead; specimens of, with a recommendation 390
- an additional, &c. character of, with specimens 465
- candid and critical remarks on; censured 494
- between two great ladies; character of 417
- Discourse* delivered at Quebec, &c. character of 154
- Disorderly*

I N D E X.

- Disorderly* persons sent to the house of correction in Clerkenwell, a scheme for their employment, &c. some account of this piece, and its author 74
- Doffie*, Mr. Robert, remarks on his institutes of experimental chemistry, &c. censured 237
- refutation of the above remarks, recommended 238
- Dunkin*, William, B. D. his epistle to the earl of Chesterfield, &c. remarks on, with specimens 232
- Dutch*, how they obtained their settlements on the coast of Guiney 326
- E.
- Earthquake*, a surprising one in Canada described 53
- Edwin* and *Emma*; recommended 244
- Elegies*, by Mr. Delap; recommendation of, and specimen 320
- (four) descriptive and and moral; approbation of, and quotation 320
- Encaustic* painting, some account of 472
- England*, the parliamentary and constitutional history of, &c. vol. XXI. specimens of, with remarks and approbation 450
- English* settlements in Africa, an account of 327, 328
- and French colonies in North and South America, a political essay upon, &c. character of, with remarks 413
- theatre, some account of 118
- universities, observations on the present state of; remarks on 79
- Equity*, principles of; specimens and recommendation of 182
- Essays* read to a literary society at Glasgow; remarks on, with an extract 177
- Ethiopic* language, some account of 162
- Eugene*, prince, an account of his victory over the Turks at Zenta 26
- F.
- Ferdinand*, P. his character 441
- Ferguson*, James, his lectures on mechanics, &c. extracts of, with a recommendation 276
- Fever* powder (Dr. James's) a dissertation on, by M. Flemyng, M. D. quotations of, with remarks 381
- Fewers*, a practical treatise on, by Dr. Stevens; specimens of, with remarks 103
- bilious, an essay on, by Dr. Tissot; extracts of 269
- Fez* city, description of 463
- Field* engineer, &c. the heads of, with a remark on the translation 143
- Flour* and bread trades, a brief and impartial survey of, &c. recommended 500
- Foundling* hospital, its tendencies, &c. censure and specimen of this piece 413
- French* dominions in North and South America, the natural and civil history of, &c. an account of, with extracts, and character 47
- Frye*, Mr. his mezzotintos recommended 400
- G.
- Gallas*, the nation of, described 164

INDEX.

- Germany*, conjectures on the present state of affairs in, &c. censured 420.
- Giagas*, the nation of, described 247.
- Gilimer*, king of the Vandals, some account of 85.
- God*, the happiness of mankind, and not their misery, his intention 1, 2.
- Gout*, a treatise on, by Dr. Liger; quotations of, with remarks 283.
- Great Britain*, the interest of, considered, with regard to her colonies, &c. character of, with remarks 411.
- observations relating to its coin, by J. Massie; remarks on 467.
- Guadaloupe*, some account of 72.
- reasons for not restoring it, &c. remarks on 157, 411.
- Guiney coast*, an account of 325.
- H.
- Hamilton*, count, select tales of; their character 413.
- Hanbury*, Mr. his plan for a public library at Church-Langon, &c. approved of 244.
- Handel*, George Frederic, memoirs of his life, &c. summary of, with remarks on his compositions 306.
- Tears of music, a poem to his memory, &c. by Mr. J. Langhorne; approbation of, and specimens 323.
- Hannibal*, his character 263.
- Hawkins*, Mr. W. his review of his works, and the remarks made on the same by the reviewers, &c. observations on 214.
- Head*, observations on the confusions of 32.
- Hell*, the praise of, &c. some account of, with a censure of the translation 144.
- Henry*, prince of Wales, his life by T. Birch, D. D. extracts of, with remarks 98.
- Hill*, Aaron, Esq; his dramatic works; recommended 235.
- Histoire naturelle generale*, &c. recommended 404.
- History* (universal) modern part of, vols. XIII. XIV. XV. XVI. XVII. XVIII. extracts from, with remarks, and commendation, 20, 81, 161, 245, 325, 457.
- Holidays*, the multitude of, detrimental to the public, &c. by J. Tilsen, Esq; the design of this piece, with remarks 409.
- Homer's Iliad*, a critical dissertation on 10.
- Hooke*, col. the secret history of his negociations in Scotland, &c. remarks on 309.
- Horne*, William Andrew, Esq; a genuine account of his life and trial, &c. substance of 78.
- Horses*, a philosophical enquiry into the origin of the distemper among them, &c. character of, and quotations 158.
- Hottentots*, an account of 171.
- Houston*, Mr. his mezzotinto of the marquis of Granby recommended 231.
- Hume*, Mr. an examination of his history, with respect to the evidence against Mary Q. of Scots, &c. summary of, with remarks 421.
- his two new essays; approved of 493.

Husbandry,

I A N D E X.

- Husbandry*, a treatise of, &c. by Tho. Hitt; extracts of, and character 373
- I.
- Jesuits*, reflections of a Portuguese on their memorial to pope Clement VIII. &c. remarks on, with quotations 432
- Jews*, their distracted state before the war with the Romans, 366; the siege of their city of Jerusalem, 371; their state in Africa 439, 463
- Job*, a poem; character of, and specimen 150
- Johnson*, R. D. D. his apology for the clergy, &c. some account of 75
- Ireland*, a short but true history of the rise, &c. of several late insurrections there; the design of this piece to extenuate the guilt of the late riots at Dublin 78
- liberty and common sense to the people of, greeting; of the same tendency with the preceding ib.
- ditto; ridiculed 317
- an essay on its ancient and modern state, &c. censured 386
- the pedlar's letter to the bishops and clergy of; recommended 242
- Italy*, an account of some Roman antiquities lately discovered there 475
- K.
- Kedington*, R. D. D. his critical dissertation on the Iliad of Homer; extracts from, with remarks 10
- Kongo*, the kingdom of, described 250
- L'Amour a-la-mode*, a farce, &c. character of and plan 236
- Laws*, their multiplicity inconvenient 443
- Letter to the people of England*, on the necessity of putting an end to the war, &c. censured 151
- from Claude Jaunice; character of, 156
- to the authors of the Critical Review 229
- with remarks 310
- (second) to a right hon. patriot, &c. censured 239
- to the right rev. Dr. Warburton, bp. of Gloucester; character, &c. of 317
- to the great man; censured 415
- Lettres historique, pour servir de suite a l'histoire de Grande Bretagne*, &c. censured 490
- de madame la marquise de Villars; recommended ib.
- de milady Juliette Catelby, &c. character of, and specimen 69
- (in English) recommended 420
- Lockman*, J. his ode on the birthday of his royal highness George prince of Wales, &c. From this performance, and his office, the author has a just claim to the title of *water-poet* 500
- his history of the cruel sufferings of the Protestants, &c. sufficiently calculated for its purpose ib.
- Logarithmic curve* described 93
- L'Oracle de nouveaux philosophes*, &c. character of 405
- Louisa*, or virtue in distress, &c. censured 318
- Love*

I N D E X.

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p><i>Love a-la-mode</i>, a Scotsman's remarks on; a conjecture thereon 495</p> <p><i>Love plea</i>, an ode, &c. character of 244</p> <p><i>Ludolphus</i> vindicated from the charge of plagiarism 162</p> <p><i>Lyncurium</i> stone, some account of 478</p> <p><i>Lyric epistles</i> (two) character of, and specimen 322</p> <p style="text-align: center;">M.</p> <p><i>Macquer's</i> chronological abridgment of the Roman history, &c. translated by T. Nugent; quotations of, with remarks, &c. 261</p> <p><i>Madeira</i>, a description of 87</p> <p><i>Marbuts</i> of Africa describ'd 338</p> <p><i>Mary Q.</i> of Scotland, an historical and critical enquiry into the evidence produced against her, by the earls of Murray and Morton, &c. with remarks 421</p> <p><i>Mathematical</i> instruments, their construction and uses, by Mr. Bion and Mr. Stone; an account of, and recommendation 59</p> <p><i>Measles</i> (anomalous malignant) some thoughts on; extracts of, and character 491</p> <p><i>Memoirs</i> of the chevalier de *** censured 77</p> <p><i>Mercury</i>, historical and political; by M. Maubert de Gouvert; an account of, with some strictures 67</p> <p><i>Methodist</i> preacher, substance of two letters from, &c. remark on 500</p> <p><i>Methodists</i>, their principles and practices considered; an unnecessary task ib.</p> | <p><i>Military</i> maxims, &c. censured 420</p> <p><i>Ministerial</i> usurpation displayed, &c. the design and character of this performance 158</p> <p><i>Morocco</i>, an account of 458</p> <p><i>Mosafa II.</i> some account of 24, 29, 31</p> <p><i>Murdin</i>, William, B. D. his collection of state papers relating to the affairs in the reign of Q. Elizabeth, &c. some account of, with extracts 353</p> <p><i>Muscutt</i>, James, A. M. his sermons; heads of, with a recommendation 407</p> <p style="text-align: center;">N.</p> <p><i>Narrative</i> companion, &c. recommended 243</p> <p><i>Negroes</i>, some account for the blackness of their skins, 82; their disposition, manners, &c. 330</p> <p><i>New estimate</i> of the manners and principles, &c. specimens of, with remarks 289</p> <p><i>Newman</i>, the rev. Mr. Thomas, his sermons; character of, with extracts, and remarks 1</p> <p><i>Nibell</i>, Mrs. Eliz. her treatise on the art of midwifery; censured 187</p> <p>— answer to the reviewers; ridiculed 412</p> <p><i>Norfolk</i>, duke of, some account of the proceedings against him in the reign of Elizabeth 354</p> <p style="text-align: center;">O.</p> <p><i>Odes</i> on the four seasons; character of 322</p> <p>— two; remarks on, with specimens 496</p> <p><i>Oeuvres</i> du philosophe de Sanssouci; an account and character</p> |
|---|---|

I N D E X.

- racter of, with a specimen 483
One thousand seven hundred and fifty-nine, a poem, &c. remarks on 495
Ophelia, the history of; remarks on 318
Orange, late princess of, her character 448
Orator, the qualifications of 1

P.

- Painting, an enquiry into the beauties of, by D. Webb, Esq; the heads of, with extracts, and recommendation* 197
Paton, Mr. his naval representations recommended 70
Peace, reasons why the approaching should be debated in parliament, &c. approved of 80
 ——— unanswerable arguments against; this piece ridiculed 152
Peru, some account of the theatre there 124
Phil and Harriot, &c. recommended 30
Philosophical transactions, vol. LI. part I. for 1759; reflections on, with extracts 470
Physiology, an introduction to, by M. Flemyng, M. D. quotations of, and approbation 38
Plane trigonometry, elements of, by F. Masares, A. M. extracts of, with remarks 92
Plants, how to preserve their seeds in a state fit for vegetation 241
Poetry descriptive, the qualifications requisite in the writer of 131
Political hum-bug; censur'd 493
Pompadour, the history of the marchioness de, &c. approbation of, with a quotation 145
Portuguese, an account of their settlements in Guiney 325
Pott, Percival, his observations on the nature and consequences of wounds, &c. quotations of, and character 32
Precis de l'ecclésiastique en vers, par M. Voltaire; remarks on, with specimens 325
Prussia, king of, his character, 441; his poems 483
Prussiad, an heroic poem, &c. quotations of, with remarks 149
Pullein, Mr. his essay towards a method of preserving the seeds of plants, &c. recommended, with an extract 241
 ——— his silk reel recommended 472
Pulse, remarks on 40

R.

- Remarks on the letter addressed to the two great men; the design and substance of this piece, with reflections* 71
Rendezvous, or Covent-Garden piazza, a satire; remarks on, with a specimen and character 237
Revolution hurtful to the English African company 328
Robertson, Dr. an examination of his dissertation, relating to the evidence against Mary Q. of Scots, &c. summary of, with remarks 421
Rome, ancient and modern, a poem; quotations of 130
 ——— an

INDEX.

- an account of its first inhabitants 266
Royal navy, some remarks on ; the heads of, with observations 154
 S.
Scots militia, the question relating thereto considered, &c. recommendation of, with a quotation 240
Scots regiment, their extraordinary generosity to one of their officers 397
Secretions, remarks on 45
Septuagint translation, and the heathen mythology, letters concerning ; summary of, with remarks 113
Shrubs of Parnassus ; specimens of, recommended 217
Skull, observations on its fractures 32
Socrates, a tragedy ; the plan of, with specimens, &c. 221
Soldiers disbanded, scheme for the general good of the nation, by a provision for them, &c. the design of 406
Solyman, soltan, some account of 20, 23
Speculum concave, an account of 62
Spirit of contradiction, a comedy ; censured 239
Stubbing, Henry, D. D. his sermons on practical Christianity ; recommendation of, with remarks 410
Strange, Mr. his engravings of St. Cecilia, and a Madona, applauded 399
 T.
Temban-dumba, her cruel reign 247
Times, a second epistle, &c. character of, and specimen 417
Tom Fool, history of ; character of, and specimen 494
Traité de la nature de l'Ame ; recommended 314
Transmigrating soul, &c. remarks on 494
Trinitarian controversy renewed ; &c. extracts of, with remarks 393
Tristram Shandy, the life and opinions of ; some account of 73
 — explanatory remarks on, &c. observations on, with a specimen 319
 — clockmaker's outcry against him, &c. censured 413
 — in a reverie, &c. censured 493
Turks, their character 20
 V.
Vandals, an account of their government in Africa 84
Veneral distemper, a short exposition of a sure and easy method for preventing its communication, &c. quotation of, with remarks 73
 W.
Walker, commodore, his voyages and cruises ; character of, and quotation 479
Water engine, by fire, described 277
Way to keep him, a comedy ; plan of, with remarks 141
West, Benjamin, his sacra concerto ; approved 77
Whidah, the kingdom of, described 254
 Y.
Yorick's sermons ; recommended 405

